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‘Wear Khadi, buy handicrafts’

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami’s appeal to people
to wear Khadi clothes - 01.10.2019 (*English Translation*)

Let us take a pledge to wear Khadi clothes and improve the status of Khadi weavers by giving a helping hand to the handloom Industry.

Remembering Gandhiji’s advice that ‘Use of Khadi is the foundation of Swadeshi’ on the occasion of his birth anniversary, we should resolve to purchase Khadi products to uplift the livelihood of the poor weavers who design them.

Tamil Nadu is the pioneer in the country in producing Khadi products by using hand spinning wheel. Khadi clothes of attractive new designs made by weavers, and the handicrafts crafted by rural artisans are marketed through Khadi showrooms situated throughout the State. To give a fillip to Khadi Sales, a 30 per cent discount is given through the Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Commission to all Khadi varieties throughout the year.

The Tamil Nadu Government, running on the lines of the Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been providing education grant, marriage assistance, maternity assistance, accident/natural death grant and old age pension to the Khadi spinners and weavers of the Khadi Commission and Sarvodaya Sangam through the Khadi Spinners and Weavers Welfare Board.

I appeal to school and college students, the youth, common men and Government employees to purchase Khadi garments made by the poor Khadi weavers and handicrafts created by rural artisans.

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“Just as the Rain Water Harvesting scheme was turned into a people’s movement, we should all join together to make the scheme of planting trees and protecting rivers into a people’s movement.”

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
- Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Editor and Publisher

Dr. P. Sankar I.A.S.,
Director of Information &
Public Relations and Ex-officio
Additional Secretary to Government

Administrative Editor

B. Selvambal
Deputy Director (Publications)

Joint Editor

M.A. Roshan Kurshidha Begam
Assistant Director

Associate Editors/Public Relations Officers

Maya Khumaresun
S. Kamala
D. Kalaiarasan

Assistant Editors

M. Mohanavalli
M. Manimekalai
A. Mathan

Senior Artist

R. Samundeeswari

Artist

R.Uma Maheswari

Junior Proof Reader

D. Priya

Designed by

P.A. Louis
G. Murali Krishnan

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First Wrapper

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** welcomed the Hon’ble President of the People’s Republic of China **Mr. Xi Jinping** at the Chennai Airport on 11.10.2019 by presenting him a bouquet of flowers, when the latter visited Tamil Nadu for a summit with the Indian Prime Minister at Mamallapuram in Kancheepuram District. Hon’ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit** was present on the occasion.

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Website : www.tndipr.gov.in

Hon'ble Chief Minister underlines change in governance style

'From people petitioning officials, today Chief Minister comes to take petitions'

Inaugural speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the Mettur special grievances redressal camp in Mettur Assembly constituency, Salem District and distribution of welfare assistance on 29.09.2019. *(English Translation)*

My obeisance to Goddess Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

At the outset, I offer my grateful respects to all of you, participating in this wonderful event.

This event has been arranged today to receive and resolve the different problems of the people of Mettur Assembly constituency. Welfare assistance is also to be distributed in this event.

I have already received petitions directly from the people of the Assembly constituencies of Athur, Yercaud, Sankagiri and Veerapandi and action has been initiated on them. Today, it is Mettur and from here, I will be reaching Omalur.

Through this scheme, unresolved problems pending for a long period are being settled. Information will be passed on to the petitioners on the steps taken on their grievances; likewise,

reasons for rejection of their petitions will be conveyed to them through post. Most of the petitions pertain to grant of old age pension. Across Tamil Nadu, we have decided to give financial assistance to 5 lakh senior citizens who are old and incapacitated.

Another major request is to issue patta to houses where they have resided for long. Appropriate steps will be taken to issue pattas to eligible persons after official scrutiny. In a similar way, patta transfer will be made to purchasers of land and house after scrutiny by the officials concerned if petitions are forwarded. You can raise loans from banks only if you have exclusive patta. So, steps will be taken to fulfill that also if you apply for exclusive patta. We have changed the condition of people petitioning many officers even for minor issues like getting certificates for death and inheritance and created a situation where the Chief Minister himself receives petitions directly. Petitions received are uploaded in the computer, action is initiated and results are conveyed to people through post. I wish to State that officers will pay special attention to each and every petition. District Collectors post many officers to act on all petitions and find solutions, without missing any.

At present, this Government is implementing many schemes all over Tamil Nadu and in all places. But the Leader of the Opposition is making false accusations wherever he goes and in public meetings that no scheme has been implemented in this regime. I wish to mention a few of the works completed in this Mettur constituency in the last 8 years - from 2011 when Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took over the administration to 2019.

The Kamath Park, generally known as 'Small Park', set up with compound wall, footpath and play tools for children, all costing Rs.60 lakh in Mettur Municipality has been declared open today. Animal models to regale

children will be set up in this park also has been done in Amma Park at Katchupalli which I had declared open yesterday. This will be done from the Rajya Sabha Member's constituency fund.

A subsidy assistance of Rs.1.86 crore has been given to 100 beneficiaries for construction of houses through the Rural Development and Panchayat Department – to 40 persons under the Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme and to 60 persons under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana). Through the Department of Co-operation, 218 beneficiaries were given loans to the extent of Rs.1,62,10,000 crop loan to 100 persons, medium-term loan to 20 persons, loans to 96 Women Self Help Groups and 2 differently abled persons; under the Women Development Scheme, loan and subsidy assistance to 142 women to the tune of Rs.69.25 lakh - bank loan to 11 Women Self Help Groups and Amma two-wheeler subsidy assistance to 131 women; under the Prime Minister's Micro-Irrigation Scheme, Rs.31.40 lakh subsidy assistance to 26 farmers (Horticulture Department), under the mechanization of agriculture programme, subsidy assistance of Rs.14.73 lakh to 4 farmers for agri-implements (Agriculture Engineering Department), subsidy assistance of Rs.1.02 lakh to 26 farmers – tilling subsidy to 9 farmers under the Sustainable Rain-fed Area Development Scheme, mechanized paddy sowing subsidy to 16 farmers and coconut tree climbing machine for one farmer under the National Agriculture Development Scheme (Agriculture Department).

Under the Tamil Nadu Urban Road Development Scheme, black-topped roads have been developed at an estimate of Rs.2.65 crore; works have been undertaken with subsidy assistance from Tamil Nadu Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation, to provide 10,000 undergroud sewage connections

to houses at a cost of Rs.6.90 crore and 7,000 drinking water supply connections at a cost of Rs.2.40 crore. Under the Integrated Urban Development Scheme, extension of water mains at an estimate of Rs.1.55 crore has been taken up. Underground sewage works by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board at a cost of Rs.73 crore in Mettur Municipal areas are about to be completed. Works have been taken up at a cost of about Rs.10 crore under the Integrated Urban Development Scheme for implementing the underground drainage scheme in the left out areas of Edappadi Municipality.

Restoration of 9 lakes, maintained by the Mettur Dam Division has been completed at a cost of Rs.3.23 crore. Conversion of Mettur East and West canals into concrete-laid canals is going on. This is to ensure full water supply to the tail-end areas without any wastage. The first stage work has been completed and the second stage work is about to be taken up. Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government is implementing this scheme in an excellent manner so that farmers get the water that is due to them in full measure. So far Rs.250 crore has been spent on this scheme.

The renovation of the frontage of Mettur Dam Park has been completed with the installation of a memorial pillar at an estimate of Rs.1 crore with inscriptions explaining Hon'ble Amma's achievement of getting the Cauvery Tribunal's judgment gazetted.

Likewise, our Government created history by de-silting the Mettur dam that remained neglected for 83 long years in this respect. As Chief Minister, I inaugurated this (desilting) scheme personally. Farmers made use of the alluvial soil obtained from the dredging in their fields at no cost.

The *'kudimaramathu'* scheme to desilt water bodies like lakes and tanks, is implemented with the visionary outlook of conserving rain water. This scheme is entirely implemented by farmers. The opposition

party men who find fault with this scheme have not dredged even a single lake during their rule. There are 40,000 lakes and tanks in Tamil Nadu – 14,000 maintained by the PWD and 26,000 by the Panchayat Unions. The *'kudimaramathu'* scheme envisages dredging these water bodies in stages. Every year, a fixed amount is allotted, lakes to be de-silted are identified and *'kudimaramathu'* works are undertaken. In the first phase Rs.100 crore and in the second, Rs.328 crore was allotted and works are being carried out. This year, Rs.500 crore has been allotted to dredge 1,829 PWD lakes and works have been started. For the lakes, tanks and ponds in Panchayat Unions, Rs.1,250 crore has been allotted and works have started. But the opposition partymen are blaming this excellent scheme.

The Leader of the Opposition Thiru. Stalin has stated that no steps have been taken by the Chief Minister to prevent the surplus water from Mettur dam draining wastefully into the sea. During DMK rule, how many check dams were constructed between Mettur and Kollidam. In Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Durai Murugan held the PWD ministry for the longest period. But not a single check dam was constructed. I wish to point out that Stalin who has not done anything, is not qualified to talk about us.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced that a check dam across the Kollidam river should be constructed at Adhanur Kumaramangalam to prevent surplus water from Mettur draining into the sea wastefully. We are implementing it today.

Amma's Government continues to provide many welfare schemes to school students. We have upgraded middle level schools in Mettur constituency into high schools and high schools into higher secondary schools. The number of persons taking to education in Tamil Nadu has increased as Amma's Government has introduced new schemes for students continuously and made available all needed infrastructural facilities. Enrolment in higher education has increased to 49 per cent. Today, Tamil Nadu stands first in the whole of India in the number of students pursuing higher education.

Tamil Nadu is at present a power surplus State. That is why new industries come into Tamil Nadu. Eliminating the severe power cut that prevailed in the DMK rule, Hon'ble Amma gave uninterrupted power supply in just 3 years. During my foreign tour, overseas industrialists mentioned that Tamil Nadu has become a prosperous State and conducive for starting industries. Also, 41 industrial establishments have signed Memoranda of Understanding for starting industries in Tamil Nadu. Unable to digest this, the Leader of the Opposition, Stalin is demanding a White Paper on it. Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government is functioning with the ideal of industrializing the State and thus creating job opportunities. The country's economy should grow; farmers' lives should flourish. That is why Water Management scheme is being implemented and action being initiated for farmers to get enough water. Also, many schemes are being implemented through the Agriculture Department.

People should compare the schemes implemented during the DMK's rule between 2006 and 2011 and those implemented in Hon'ble Amma's rule between 2011 and 2019, and come to a conclusion as to which of the two has been for the people.

Under the Social Security Scheme, many kinds of financial assistance to the tune of about Rs.79 crore have been given to 7,751 beneficiaries. Under the distribution of house site patta at no cost scheme, 14,797 beneficiaries were given pattas for house sites valued at about Rs.40 crore.

As for the health sector, it is due to Amma's Government that Tamil Nadu continues to be in the premier position in India in organ transplantation. During the foreign tour, an MoU was signed for the eradication of dengue and malaria mosquitoes. New primary health centres have been set up in Mettur constituency; new doctors have been appointed; a mobile hospital has been commissioned; vacancies in the medical field have been filled up. It is Amma's Government that has opened veterinary hospitals on a large scale.

The request for the construction of a 16-eye bridge dam in Mettur has been carried out. After the completion of the land acquisition work for widening the road from Bhavani to Mettur, and Mettur to Thoppur, the roads will be widened.

On behalf of the Co-operation Department, about Rs.270 crore crop loan has been given to 51,610 farmers; medium-term loan worth Rs.16 crore has been given to 2,585 farmers; jewellery loan to the tune of Rs.1,517 crore has been given to 4,65,843 farmers; Rs.2.51 crore loan to 588 differently-abled persons; a loan assistance of Rs.33.51 crore to 1,305 women belonging to women self help groups; other types of loan worth Rs.33 crore to 10,235 persons. Totally, different types of loans to the extent of Rs.1,871.99 crore have been disbursed to 5,32,166 persons through the Co-operation Department in the last 8 years. Like these, many schemes have been implemented in Mettur constituency.

This Government is people's Government; one that fulfills people's needs. I request you to be ever supportive of this Government. I thank all the persons who have arranged this excellent function.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

AWARD OF GANDHI ADIGAL POLICE MEDAL TO FIVE POLICE OFFICERS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK IN CURTAILING ILLICIT LIQUOR

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the award of Gandhi Adigal Police Medal to (i) Thiru. S.Chandramohan, Inspector of Police, Prohibition Enforcement Wing, Tiruppur City, (ii) Thiru. D.Rajasekaran, Inspector of Police Central Investigation Unit, Tiruchirappalli Zone, (iii)Tmt. D.Poongothai,Women Inspector of Police, Panruti Police Station, Cuddalore District, (iv) Thiru. N.Azhagiri, Sub-Inspector of Police, Central Investigation Unit, Villupuram Zone, (v) Thiru. A.Parthibanathan, Head Constable 2864, Kumbakonam West Police Station, Thanjavur District now OD at Central Investigation Unit, Tiruchirappalli Zone for their outstanding work in curtailing illicit liquor. The Medals will be given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occasion of Republic Day on 26th January 2020. A cash award of Rs.40,000 to each of the awardees will be presented along with the medal.

Gandhi Jayanthi celebrations highlight values championed by the Mahatma

In connection with the 151th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O. Panneerselvam and other Hon'ble Ministers paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi, by offering rose petals to his portrait placed near his statue on the Marina on 02.10.2019. Every year, the Tamil Nadu Government celebrates the birth anniversary of Gandhiji on October 2nd, in an excellent manner.

Subsequently, the Hon'ble Governor, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Hon'ble Ministers participated in a spinning yagna and prayer function organized by the Sarvodaya Sangh, Chennai. Earlier a bicycle rally, held to stress the need for eradicating untouchability and fostering National Integration, world peace and communal harmony, was flagged off by the Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Thiru. K.A.Sengottaiyan. NCC cadets and Members of Brahma Kumaris Sangh participated.

At this function, Tamil Development and Information Secretary Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations Dr.P.Sankar I.A.S., Chennai District Collector, Tmt. R.Sitalakshmi I.A.S. and high Government Officials participated.

At the Gandhi Mandapam in Guindy, bhajans were organized between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. On behalf of the Information and Publicity Department, a beautiful photo exhibition depicting the life of Mahatma Gandhi was organized. In the evening, cultural events were conducted by college students and Members of the South Zone Cultural Centre at Gandhi Mandapam.

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, Mahatma Gandhi birth anniversary was celebrated at 5 p.m. at Gandhi Mandapam. Hon'ble Governor Banwarilal Purohit, who participated as a special guest, planted saplings at the Gandhi Mandapam campus. Later, the Hon'ble Governor distributed prizes and certificates to students who won in oratorical, essay and poetry contests conducted earlier in connection with the celebrations. Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru. K.A.Sengottaiyan gave the presidential address. Hon'ble Minister for Information and Public Relations Thiru. Kadambur Raju spoke on the occasion. Tamil Development and Information Secretary Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., welcomed the gathering, and Director of Information and Public Relations Dr.P.Sankar I.A.S., presented a vote of thanks.

Many members of the public participated in the function and offered their homage to Gandhiji. A film on Gandhi was screened daily for three days from October 2nd to October 4th at 7 p.m. at the Gandhi Mandapam. ■

Chennai Metro Phase II, Medical Colleges and Air Services in wish list

Godavari-Cauvery link, Cauvery rejuvenation figure in 8-point memorandum to Centre

Text of Memorandum presented to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India by **Thiru. Edappadi K Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 30.09.2019

GODAVARI – CAUVERY LINKAGE

Request to expedite linking of Peninsular Rivers

Tamil Nadu is a water deficit State. The annual per capita availability of water in the State is 860 cubic meters only, as against the national average of 1869 cubic meters. Tamil Nadu has tapped almost all of its surface water resources and has to look for sources beyond its frontiers to meet the needs of its growing population. The ground water resources are also fast depleting and in some areas the ground water is not available even at 1,000 feet.

The only major river system in Tamil Nadu is the Cauvery system and it is also a deficit

system. Therefore, there is an urgent need to find alternate sources to meet the water needs of Tamil Nadu.

The Revised National Water Policy emphasizes inter-basin transfer of waters for meeting basic human needs and achieving equity and social justice.

The only solution to water starved Tamil Nadu is to transfer water from Godavari to Cauvery and then to increase the quantity when Mahanadhi is linked with Godavari.

Tamil Nadu has addressed the National Water Development Agency on 04.09.2019 to divert 200 TMC ft. of water at the Tamil Nadu border to meet the growing drinking water needs of Tamil Nadu and to stabilize the area under irrigation by linking Godavari – Cauvery and to increase this quantity to atleast 300 TMC ft. when Mahanadhi is linked with Godavari. Further, Tamil Nadu has requested to rework the alignment at a higher contour, so that the link which is proposed to terminate in Cauvery at Grand Anicut point can be revised as Godavari–Cauvery at Kattalai link point.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to instruct the Ministry of Jal Shakti to provide 200 TMC ft. of water from Godavari, by co-ordinating with the riparian States of Godavari and to finalise the preparation of Detailed Project Report of Godavari – Cauvery at Kattalai link point quickly, so that the water needs of Tamil Nadu are fulfilled.

I further request that financial sanction may be accorded to the Project enabling the water deficit State of Tamil Nadu to derive the benefits of the Project early.

REJUVENATION OF CAUVERY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES ON THE LINES OF NAMAMI GANGE

Request financial support for "Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery" programme to restore the sacred River Cauvery and its main tributaries.

The much acclaimed "Namami Gange", an Integrated Conservation Mission; 'Flagship Programme' taken up under your dynamic leadership to abate the river pollution and rejuvenate River Ganga, has been a driving force to initiate reviving the River Cauvery.

During the discussion I had with you and in the memorandum I presented on 15.06.2019, I sought the support for sanctioning financial assistance of the Government of India to rejuvenate Cauvery river on the lines of 'Namami Gange'

Tamil Nadu's initiative was considered positively by the Government of India and the same was included in the Hon'ble President of India's address to the Joint session of Parliament.

Tamil Nadu has prepared Feasibility Report for rejuvenation of the river Cauvery at a rough cost estimate of Rs.9,927 crore, which will be forwarded to Government of India seeking financial assistance.

I, request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to support the scheme "Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery" in Tamil Nadu at an estimated

cost of about Rs.9,927 crore with financial assistance of Government of India.

MODERNISATION OF GRAND ANICUT CANAL SYSTEM

Financial request under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana - Modernisation of Grand Anicut Canal System of Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been implementing several water conservation and augmentation projects to improve the storage capacity of reservoirs, tanks, etc., and one among them is the proposed Modernisation of Grand Anicut Canal System.

The prime objective of the project is to repair and rehabilitate structures, improvement to Tanks including strengthening of bunds and other works, which are required to be carried out urgently.

The Investment Committee of Ministry of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation had given investment clearance to the project on 05.05.2017, but it was not considered for funding. However, the Government of India has assured Tamil Nadu that the proposed Modernisation of Grand Anicut Canal System would be considered under Pradhan Mantri Krishi SinchayeeYojana - Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, whenever a review is made.

The Regional Office of Central Water Commission, Chennai on 19.08.2019 has forwarded the proposal to the Government of India, Ministry of Jal Shakti for consideration.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to instruct the Ministry of Jal Shakti to accord priority to the Scheme of Modernisation of Grand Anicut Canal System of Tamil Nadu for financial assistance under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme or any other external funding for sanction of funds.

CHENNAI METRO RAIL PROJECT

Request to Sanction Revised project cost of Phase - I and DPR of Phase – II under 50:50 joint venture partnership basis

The Phase - I of Chennai Metro Rail Project under 50:50 joint venture partnership basis between Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu has been completed and passenger services inaugurated in stages since 2015 and the entire Phase-I is operational from February, 2019 onwards.

The estimated cost of completion of Phase - I project of Rs.14,600 crore has been revised to Rs.19,058 crore due to increase in cost of land, construction and foreign exchange rates. The revised cost has been approved by the State Government. It is requested that the sanction of Government of India is accorded at the earliest.

Phase - II of Chennai Metro Rail Project was initially approved by the Government of Tamil Nadu and recommended to Government of India for approval in April, 2017. Due to the introduction of New Metro Rail Policy by Government of India and updating the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) and Alternative Analysis for mode of transport, final DPR for the length of 118.9 k.m. with

the total cost of Rs.69,180 crore (including escalation, land and taxes) has been approved by Government of Tamil Nadu and sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India for their approval under 50:50 joint venture partnership basis on January 11, 2019.

Out of 118.9 k.m., Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) has already approved a loan of Rs.20,196 crore for implementing the stretch of 52.01 k.m. and agreement for first tranche of JICA loan has also been signed. For the remaining stretch, Rs.18,328 crore has been approved in principle for the loan assistance from ADB, AIIB, NDB and World Bank.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to sanction the revised cost of Phase – I and also to approve the DPR of Phase-II of Chennai Metro Rail Project under 50:50 joint venture partnership basis between Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu.

ESTABLISHMENT OF GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGES

Request to establish New Government Medical Colleges at Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Namakkal, The Nilgiris and Tiruppur under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Government of India has not given approval for the establishment of any Government Medical College in Tamil Nadu in the Phase-I and Phase-II under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, on the ground that no block of three Parliamentary Constituencies is lacking availability of atleast one Government Medical College.

On this issue, it is reiterated that Tamil Nadu has pioneered in implementation of various schemes in the Health and Medical Education sector, in addition to prioritising and investing enormous amounts of State funds to set up Medical Colleges on its own. In spite of this, there are more than 13 Districts which have no Government Medical College in Tamil Nadu. However land and District hospitals eligible for consideration are readily available under this Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The State also has the challenges of inter District disparities, despite the State's efforts and the implementation of schemes under the National Health Mission, for which the State is continuously taking all efforts to redress and provide access to 'State of Art' health facilities including tertiary care to all within the Districts itself.

It is in this background, starting a Medical College at Ramanathapuram was requested under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Despite having a clear case for being considered for sanction of a new Government Medical College at Ramanathapuram, it is disappointing that both in the Phase-I, where 58 Government Medical Colleges were sanctioned and in Phase-II, where 24 Government Medical Colleges have been announced, Tamil Nadu has been overlooked, inspite of having readily available land in its possession and functional District/referral hospital in the Districts, without a Government Medical College not only in Ramanathapuram, but also in twelve other Districts.

Now, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister has given its approval for establishment of 75 additional Government Medical Colleges by 2021-2022 attached with existing District / referral hospitals under Phase-III of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored scheme. To increase the availability of healthcare infrastructure and manpower, the Cabinet also sanctioned an expenditure of Rs.24,375 crore during the 15th Finance Commission period i.e., up to 2021-2022. The establishment of new Medical Colleges attached with existing District / Referral Hospitals, would lead to an increase in the availability of qualified health professionals, improve tertiary care in Government sector, utilize existing infrastructure of Districts hospitals and promote affordable medical education in the country. New Medical Colleges would be set up in under-served areas having no Medical College, but having at least 200 bedded District Hospital. It was also stated that preference will be given to Aspirational Districts and District Hospitals having 300 beds.

Keeping the needs of the District in mind, the Government of Tamil Nadu again reiterated the fact that so far, in the first two phases of this important Centrally Sponsored Scheme, no District had been selected in Tamil Nadu for establishment of a new Government Medical College. The Government of Tamil Nadu requested the Government of India to consider long standing demand to establish a new Government Medical College in the aspirational Districts of Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar and in the already backward Districts of Dindigul, Namakkal, The Nilgiris and Tiruppur under Phase-III of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (60 : 40 ratio) and to issue suitable orders in this regard at the earliest.

On 20.09.2019, Detailed Project Reports have been submitted to the Government of India for establishing a new Medical College in the above six Districts.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to direct the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to relax the condition, so as to facilitate sanction of a Government Medical Colleges at Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Namakkal, The Nilgiris and Tiruppur Districts under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Establishment of New Medical Colleges attached with existing District / Referral Hospitals".

REQUEST FOR AIR SERVICES

Request to introduce (i) flight services between Salem and Chennai under UDAN Scheme and (ii) flight services from Coimbatore to UAE.

(i) Flight services between Salem and Chennai under UDAN Scheme

The Flight operations to Salem under Regional Connectivity Scheme – UDAN commenced from 08.06.2017. The flight operates in the morning. However, there is a demand for operation of flights during evening hours. A request in this regard has already been made to Civil Aviation Ministry.

I request Hon'ble Prime Minister to instruct the Ministry of Civil Aviation to operate evening flight service between Salem and Chennai.

(ii) Flight Services from Coimbatore Airport to UAE

Many passengers from Coimbatore, Erode and Tiruppur Districts of Tamil Nadu are travelling to Dubai in the UAE. So, there is a demand for operation of flight from Coimbatore to Dubai.

I request Hon'ble Prime Minister to direct the Civil Aviation Ministry to introduce direct flight services from Coimbatore International Airport to Dubai.

RELEASE OF PENDING GRANTS-IN-AID

Pending Grants-in-aid from Government of India for major schemes as on 30.09.2019

Grants-in-aid to the tune of Rs.7,825.59 crore are yet to be released to Tamil Nadu by the Union Government. The major schemes have been listed below:-

Annexure
ARREAR RECEIVABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(as on 30th September 2019)

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Scheme	Arrear receivable from GoI	Administrative Department	Central Ministry
1	GST Compensation 2018-19 - 553.01 (April to June 2019) 2019-20 - 581.40 (3720.40-3139.00 = 581.40)	1134.41	CT &R	M/o Finance
2	Post-Matric scholarship schemes for Scheduled caste students (Anticipated in 2018-2019)	383.74	AD&TW	M/o Social Justice & Empowerment
3	Sarva Shiksha Abiyan (SSA)	2,109.08	Sch. Edn	M/o Human Resource Development
4	RashtriyaMadhyamikShiksha Abhiyan (including spill over approved for 2015-2016 & 2016-2017)	1,092.22	Sch. Edn	M/o Human Resource Development
5	Grants for Flood Management Programme	342.94	PW	M/o Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

6	Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009	220.82	Sch. Edn	M/o Human Resource Development
7	Family Welfare Programme (liquidation of arrears)	68.88	H&FW	M/o Health and Family Welfare
8	Construction of Fishing Harbours	15.13	AHD&F	M/o Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
9	Relief and Rehabilitation of repatriates and refugees from Sri Lankan	67.49	Public	M/o Home Affairs
10	Increase of MBBS seats of existing State Government Medical Colleges	60.84	H&FW	M/o Health and Family Welfare
11	Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)	35.01	SW&NMP	M/o Women and Child Development
12	Marketing incentive component of National Handloom Development Programme	75.79	HHT&K	M/o Textiles
13	Command Area Development & Water Management Programme (CAD&WMP)	81.13	Agri	M/o Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
14	One time Additional Central Assistance for Annual Plan 2014-2015	76.00	PD&SI	M/o Finance
15	Disaster Relief Assistance for flood in 2015	66.90	Rev	M/o Finance
16	National Savings-Cum-Relief Scheme For Fishermen	123.84	AHD&F	M/o Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
17	Repair Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies	25.50	PW	M/o Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
18	Post Matric Scholarship to Scheduled Tribe Students	39.53	AD&TW	M/o Tribal Affairs
19	Pre Matric Scholarship to Scheduled Tribe Students	3.01	AD&TW	M/o Tribal Affairs
	TOTAL	**6,022.26**		

Finance Commission Grant

20	13th Finance Commission grants pending (Others)	522.91	Finance	M/o Finance
21	Finance Commission Grants for Local Bodies (Performance)	1, 196.27	RD&MAWS	M/o Finance
22	SDRF	84.15	Rev	M/o Finance
	GRAND TOTAL	**7,825.59**		

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to instruct the concerned Ministries of Government of India to release the above funds at the earliest.

Ayudha Puja, Vijayadasami Greetings

Greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on the occasion of Ayudha Puja and Vijayadasami - 06.10.2019 (*English Translation*)

I extend my hearty greetings to the people of Tamil Nadu on the occasion of Ayudha Puja, celebrated on the ninth day of the Navarathri Festival, and on Vijayadasami, celebrated on the tenth day.

The greatness of the nine day Navarathri Festival is that the first three days are dedicated to Goddess Sakthi, who bestows strength, the next three days to Goddess Lakshmi, who gives wealth and the last three days to Goddess Saraswathi, who blesses us with the imperishable wealth of knowledge.

Ayudha Puja is celebrated by venerating the instruments and implements used in work, to give importance to labour and offer pujas for the development of one's work and attaining prosperity through it.

With the conviction that all endeavours started on triumphant Vijayadasami Day bring victory, people worship God and initiate good things in education, the arts and trade on this auspicious day. I once again wish the people of Tamil Nadu, who joyously celebrate Ayudha Puja and Vijayadasami Day, with all prosperity, wealth and happiness.

Hon'ble Chief Minister lists achievements, rebuts baseless Opposition criticism

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after inaugurating the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal Camp at Neykarapatti in Veerapandi Assembly Constituency, Salem District on 28.09.2019.

(English Translation)

Bowing to Goddess Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

This event has been arranged to receive petitions from the people of Veerapandi Assembly constituency on their grievances and to find solutions to them. Welfare assistance is also to be distributed.

Already, I have received petitions directly from the people of the Assembly constituencies of Gangavalli, Athur, Yercaud and Edappadi and appropriate action is being taken on them.

Through this scheme, long-pending issues are getting redressed. Steps taken on their petitions will be conveyed to the concerned people. Likewise, reasons for rejecting their petitions also will be given to them through letters. Most of the petitions pertain to old-age pension. Issue of pattas for the house they reside in for long, is also requested. Eligible persons will be issued pattas after scrutiny by officials. Patta transfers will also be made for the purchasers of land and house after scrutiny by the Department Officials concerned. I wish to inform that other issues will also be examined by Government and suitable action will be taken if they are presented through petitions.

I wish to mention a few of the welfare assistances to be given in the Veerapandi Assembly constituency.

Through this event, subsidy for construction of houses under the Chief Minister Solar Power Green House Scheme and

Prime Minister Housing Scheme to the tune of Rs.1.90 crore to 100 beneficiaries through the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat and credit facility to the extent of Rs.1,62,81,000 to 234 persons through the Department of Co-operation – crop loan for 182 persons, medium-term loan to one person, loans to 48 women Self Help Groups and 3 differently-abled persons are given.

Through the women's development scheme, a loan amount of Rs.1,56,40,000 is given to 136 beneficiaries – 14 women self-help groups and subsidy to 122 persons under the Amma Two-Wheeler Scheme.

I am happy that I have disbursed financial assistance to the extent of Rs.5.89 lakh to 26 beneficiaries on behalf of the Department of Agriculture – subsidy under the Prime Minister Micro Irrigation Scheme to 20 persons, subsidy to 5 persons to lay pipeline under the Directorate of National Food Safety and financial assistance to one person under the coconut tree development subsidy for re-planting and rejuvenation and tractor subsidy to one person under the mechanization scheme through the Department of Agricultural Engineering. Totally, welfare assistance valued at Rs.5,21,05,000 has been disbursed by me to 523 beneficiaries in this event.

I also wish to point out the works carried out in the Assembly constituency of Veerapandi for the last 8 years from 2011 when Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took over administration to 2019. Various schemes are implemented by Amma's Govrernment all over Tamil Nadu. But Opposition Leaders, particularly the Leader of the Opposition is levelling a false charge at public meetings and wherever he goes, that no scheme is implemented in this regime. Hence I am stating this just to point out all the schemes that have been implemented by the All India Anna DMK Government in each and every constituency. It is because people should know how many works the Government has carried out in a constituency. I wish to make known some points so that the Opposition parties should also know them.

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayat has undertaken in this constituency alone 29,531 works, valued at Rs.213.38 crore in the last 8 years. Under the Social Security Scheme of the Revenue Department, assistance of various kinds worth Rs.85.27 crore were distributed to 8,360 beneficiaries. Under the distribution of house site patta at no cost, Rs.10.81 crore worth pattas were given to 4,035 beneficiaries. I wish to point out that this is an example to show how fast the Government is taking action on the petitions given by the people. New buildings, costing Rs.54.80 lakh were constructed for the Primary Health Centres at Thumbalpatti and Murungampatti by the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. So, the demands made by the general public during the elections in these two areas have been fulfilled.

New buildings, costing Rs.1.87 crore were constructed for the 30-bed upgraded Government Primary Health Centres at Panamarathupatti, Elampillai and Kannankurichi. So, I wish to point out that we have started an upgraded 30-bed new Government hospital and appointed

new doctors additionally so that the rural people can get quality medical treatment and benefit.

Through the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Financial Assistance Scheme, assistance to the tune of Rs.66.29 crore has been distributed to 28,777 beneficiaries. The AIADMK Government is the only Government in Indian history to provide welfare assistance to new-born babies. Amma Gift Kit has been given to 2,109 neo-natal babies in this constituency. Nutrition kits worth Rs.10.70 lakh have been distributed to 535 mothers under the Amma Maternity Nutrition Kit distribution scheme. Under the hygiene scheme, 1,16,085 sanitary napkins have been distributed. All these are welfare assistance provided to women in poor families. Through the Joint Director (Welfare works), the 10-bed Nainampatti Government primary health centre has been upgraded as a 60-bed Government hospital and an annexe with 50 beds has been constructed at a cost of Rs.75 lakh for this hospital.

Through the Highways Department, 116 km long roads have been renovated at a cost of about Rs.60 crore in the last 8 years. Road works like widening and renovation to a stretch of 40 kms have been carried out at an estimate of Rs.26.5 crore. Works are in progress for construction of an 8-lane flyover at the junction of the national highway and Ariyanur at a cost of Rs.45 crore.

In the agriculture sector, welfare assistance including farm machinery, implements, seeds, drip irrigation subsidy and inputs worth Rs.8.52 crore has been distributed. Numerous programmes have been implemented for farmers. Stalin, often asks, "This Chief Minister who calls himself a farmer, what has he done for farmers?". I wish to inform the Leader of the Opposition that in this constituency alone, 57,364 farmers have benefited.

Farmers don't confine themselves to agriculture alone. To help them get additional income, the Directorate of Horticulture and Plantation Crops has distributed welfare assistance worth Rs.9 crore in this constituency, inclusive of drip irrigation subsidy, vegetable seeds, fruit plants and rearing of bees, benefiting 3,524 farmers. Farmers take these up as subsidiary occupations. On behalf of

the Sericulture Department, various subsidies worth Rs.17 lakh have been distributed to 167 farmers in this constituency. Likewise, in the agriculture engineering sector, many welfare schemes worth Rs.1.25 crore have been distributed to 1,823 farmers. Under the Agriculture Marketing Agri Business Loan Distribution Scheme about Rs.2.50 crore have been given as loan assistance to 123 farmers.

At the Salem Regulated Market, buildings worth about Rs.3.5 crore, inclusive of two storage facilities with a capacity of 2,000 metric tonnes and a transaction hall, a 25 metric tonne capacity refrigerated godown and a solar dryer have been constructed. To protect farmers from un-remunerative prices for their produce, the refrigerated godown is constructed for preserving their produce and selling the same when prices rise. Loan facility at low interest rate is also arranged to meet their monetary needs. These are all great boons to agriculturists.

The Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board has carried out in the last 8 years through individual power pump schemes at an estimate of Rs.11.50 crore to cater to 245 rural dwellings.

Works costing Rs.17 lakh for supply of drinking water to 46 schools and 47 anganwadi centres in the Panchayat Unions of Veerapandi and Panamarathupatti have been completed. Sixty-two renovation scheme works costing Rs.2.25 crore have been completed to rejuvenate water sources. So, I wish to point out that it is my Government that has the capacity to provide uninterrupted drinking water supply to the people of this constituency by implementing scheme works totally costing about Rs.13.89 crore. You have placed demands for water supply to many more areas. This Government is taking steps for implementing them also.

From the extensive combined water supply scheme, executed at a cost of Rs.270 crore for supply of water to 1,345 dwellings in the Municipalities of Athur and Narasingapuram, 20 Town Panchayats and 12 Panchayat Unions, 1.08 million litres of water is regularly supplied per day to 35 dwellings in Panamarathupatti Panchayat Union.

Survey works, costing about Rs.824 crore have been undertaken for a Combined Water Supply Scheme to distribute water to 799 rural dwellings in the town panchayats of Elampillai, Panamarathupatti, Aattayampatti and the Panchayat Unions of Panamarathupatti, Veerapandi and Salem. This will provide drinking water facility to lakhs of people in this region.

In the co-operative sector, crop loan of Rs.160 crore has been disbursed to 30,625 farmers. Medium-term loan to the tune of Rs.9.50 crore has been provided to 1,534 farmers. To 2,76,433 farmers, jewel loans to an extent of Rs.900 crore have been given. Loans amounting to Rs.1.50 crore have been given to 349 differently-abled persons. Credit facility, running to about Rs.20 crore, has been provided to 774 members of women self help groups. Other types of loan, to the tune of Rs.20 crore have been given to 6,073 persons.

In 8 years, in Veerapandi Assembly constituency alone, different types of loan amounting to about Rs.1,110 crore haven given to 3,15,788 persons.

Animal Husbandry is a subsidiary occupation for farmers. Various kinds of welfare assistance like distribution of goats/ sheep and country chicken at no cost, cattle preservation scheme, State fodder development scheme, development scheme for Mecheri class goat, setting up of small dairy and insurance cover for livestock, to the tune of about Rs.10 crore, have been provided to 13,395 beneficiaries. All these are the steps taken by Amma's Government to help farm workers to stand on their own feet. New buildings have been constructed at a cost of Rs.3 crore for 14 veterinary dispensaries.

Amma's Government is implementing many schemes for our children to get the best education. If the children are to get the best education, Government should provide them necessary facilities. Intelligent students in poor conditions cannot get higher education; cannot go to jobs. Considering all these things and with the idea that students from poor families should also get the same education as the haves and go to jobs, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, with a visionary outlook, brought about this wonderful scheme. Amma's Government also continues to implement the scheme in an effective way. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma implemented the laptop distribution scheme to help poor students get scientific education. In Veerapandi Assembly constituency alone, 24,474 students were given laptops through this scheme costing Rs.26.07 crore in the last 8 years. This has been done by Amma's Government.

To help students commute to schools, Puratchi Thalavi Amma launched the scheme to distribute bicycles to them, at no cost. In this region alone, 23,564 students were given bicycles costing Rs.5.72 crore. I am proud to point out that Amma's Government shines as the foundation in many ways for students to reach excellence in education with schemes to provide assistance to those who have lost bread-winning parents and special incentives to avert student drop-outs in mid- education. Amma's Government likewise is issuing bus pass also at no cost.

Acceding to the demand to upgrade middle level schools into high schools in this area, Amma's Government has upgraded those in the Panchayat Unions of Erumapalayam, Nilavarapatti, Keeraipappambadi and

Kammalapatti and thus created an environment for students here to pursue higher education. Likewise, the Nazhikkalpatti Government high school has been upgraded as a higher secondary school. Classrooms and toilet facilities have been provided to students at a cost of Rs.1 crore. On behalf of the Movement for Middle Level Education for All, model schools and hostels, costing Rs.14.40 crore have been constructed at Panamarathupatti and Veerapandi. Totally, new school buildings, laboratories, classrooms, compound wall, model schools and hostels, costing Rs.17.60 crore have been constructed in this region.

For a long time, lakes in this region have not be desilted. A *'kudimaramathu'* scheme to desilt water bodies with the help of farmers is being implemented for saving the monsoonal rain water. There are 40,000 lakes in Tamil Nadu, 14,000 maintained by the Public Works Department and 26,000 by Panchayat Unions. The scheme envisages gradual desilting of these lakes. Each year, a fixed amount is allotted, lakes to be desilted are identified and *'kudimaramathu'* works are undertaken. Members of the opposition party who find fault with this scheme, did not move their little finger during their rule. They charge that dredging has not taken place here or there, because the scheme is earning a good name to the Government. The alluvial soil obtained due to dredging is used by farmers as natural fertilizer.

On my return from the foreign trip, media persons asked me what was my next destination. I replied it was Israel. Farmers there use water thriftily and obtain good yields. Agriculture is undertaken in large areas with less water. Water we use for one acre of land here, is used there for 7 acres. I had said I will be visiting Israel to study this. When we treat urban waste water and save it in nearby lakes after re-cycling it, it raises the ground water table for utilization in agriculture. To study this technology, I said, I would be visiting Israel. But the Leader of the Oppositon Thiru. Stalin reacts by stating that a Chief Minister who cannot save the surplus water of Cauvery that wastefully drains into the sea, visits that country. I wish to point out that Stalin, who has not done anything –

has not even constructed a check dam – has no locus standi to criticize us. We have created an exclusive body for implementation of the water management scheme. I know how precious water is because I am a farmer. Water is as important to a farmer as life breath is to a man. To conserve that water, retired engineers were appointed for designing the water management scheme and they were directed to send reports to the Government on the ways it can be done. They have undertaken a survey and are about to file the report. DMK partymen who have neither constructed a single check dam between Mettur and Kollidam during their rule nor devised any means for implementing it, I wish to point out, have no merit to talk about us.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced the construction of a check dam across the Kollidam at Adhanur Kumaramangalam to prevent the draining of monsoon rain water that flows from Mettur, into the sea. Amma's Government has started that work. Without any knowledge of it, Stalin is talking and is giving interviews. Let not Stalin say that the Chief Minister should at least implement the scheme started by Amma. Let him not parrot what some one has written and given to him, without any knowledge. The scheme has been inaugurated. I wish to State that the check dam announced by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is being constructed now. Survey work is under way on the places between Mettur and Kollidam where the check dams must be constructed. A detailed project report is being prepared for construction, in the first stage, of a check dam near Karur. I wish to State that in the next four months, an agreement will be entered into and work on it will start. Amma's Government is taking steps to construct 3 or 4 check dams between Mettur and Kollidam. Construction of check dams across *Odais* will be implemented in the next 3 years at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore. Amma's Government will honour the pledge it makes.

Several water issues like Mullai Periyar, Azhiyaru-Parambikulam, Pandiyar-Punnampuzha, Shenbagavalli dam and Neyyar confront the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. I wrote to the Kerala Chief Minister, seeking water supply for drinking and irrigation purposes. He invited me for talks. Accepting that invitation, I went to Kerala as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, the first in the last 15 years, and met the Chief Minister of that State.

Thiru. Durai Murugan (DMK) had the longest innings as PWD minister in Tamil Nadu. During your period of office, you could have solved the Mullai Periyar issue. At least Palar issue could have been settled. What qualifications do you then have to speak now? We are making an attempt to solve things. It will be good if you lend your voice for that effort. Instead, Thiru. Durai Murugan has said that the meeting with the Kerala Chief Minister was to give an impression that this Government functions.

We said a committee would be formed. If an issue is to be resolved, a committee has to be formed. In both the States, the committees are formed with the high officials there. The two committees will discuss the problems in their respective States and finalize them. I wish to inform at this juncture that we will take efforts to resolve the problems in two months. My Government is not like yours to sleep over

the problem for years together. We have proved that whatever scheme we bring in, we monitor and implement it as soon as it is announced. In that way, I wish to State that our Government will act quickly to implement all the schemes I have mentioned.

We have talked about the Aanaimalaiyar scheme with the Kerala Chief Minister. A decision would be reached on it through this committee. We have met and discussed on the belief that a good solution would be reached when Chief Ministers of the States concerned are directly involved. Our effort will certainly succeed. So, the DMK need not worry about that. During your rule, you enjoyed the position you held and did not bother about the people. In our rule, we think only about the people. We will prove that our Government is one that explores the ways by which people's problems should be solved and acts after deliberations.

During the 2016 Assembly election, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced that two wheelers would be distributed to working women at subsidized rates. In the years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, six hundred and ninety-four working women were selected through District selection committees for the two-wheeler scheme and 347 of them were given a subsidy of Rs.86.75 lakh at the rate of Rs.25,000 each.

Different village poverty reduction committees and women self help groups were given loans to an extent of about Rs.260 crore. Construction of 880 quarters at a cost of about Rs.26 crore is on, under the Housing for All scheme. Through the District Industrial Centre, a subsidy of Rs.2 crore has been given to 103 beneficiaries for starting new industries. Various welfare assistances have been given through different schemes to an extent of Rs.2.50 crore by the Department of Backward, Most Backward and Minority Welfare and Rs.2 crore by the Department of Adi Dravidar Welfare. The Department of welfare for the differently-abled persons has distributed welfare assistance valued at Rs.11.73 crore, inclusive of instrumental aids and cash assistance to 11,457 differently-abled persons in the Veerapandi Assembly constituency alone.

Amma's Government has started a Government law college in Salem to help students in this region to study law. The Salem District Central Co-operative Bank will be upgraded to the level of additional registrar from that of joint registrar. Through the Highways Department many roads have been repaired and many bridge works are being executed.

Grievances will be redressed after examining the petitions given by the general public and by women folk; this Government is your Government, this is the people's Government; our Government is one that implements what people desire. Though I am Chief Minister, I meet you and collect petitions from you as I want to redress your grievances. Stating this and thanking the District Collector and other Officials for making excellent arrangements and the media friends for bringing out the news then and there, I take leave of you all.

Nandri! Vanakkam.

‘Measures to increase forest cover have paid dividends in Tamil Nadu’

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the valedictory function of training to Forest Guards at the Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore and Certificates distribution held on 27.09.2019 (*English Translation*).

I bow to goddess Hon’ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Respected Hon’ble Minister for Forest Thiru. Dindigul C.Sreenivasan who has given an excellent presidential address at this valedictory of forest guards training and certificate distribution function, Hon’ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Special Programmes implementation Thiru. S.P. Velumani, Hon’ble Deputy Speaker of Legislative Assembly Thiru. Pollachi V.Jayaraman, Rajya Sabha Member and former Minister Thiru. A.K.Selvaraj, Members of the Legislative Assembly Thiruvalargal P.R.G. Arunkumar, O.K. Chinnaraj, V.C. Arukkuty, Ettimadai A. Shanmugam, V.P. Kandasamy and Tmt.Kasthuri Vasu, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment and Forest, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, District Collector, Director of the Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, forest guards who are about to join service after completion of training and their family members, elders, ladies, friends, press and media friends - at the outset, I offer my grateful respects to all of you.

For water security and bio-diversity safety, protection of forests and their fauna are very

essential. Forests remove the carbon di-oxide in the atmosphere. The roots of trees, plants and creepers below the earth bind together the soil, prevent soil erosion and protect us from floods and landslides. Hon'ble Amma's Government is firm on the necessity of protecting forests for the development of the human race. We have realized that 'forest is life'. All through Tamil Nadu history, we come across kings and subjects who loved forests.

In 1855, Dr.H.F. Cleghorn was directed by the British authorities to take steps to create the Madras Forest Department. He was appointed as the first Conservator of Forests of the then Madras Presidency. In 1864, it was turned into the Forest Department of India. In this way, I am proud to say that Tamil Nadu led the whole of India as far as conservation of forests is concerned. Subsequently, Indian and Madras forest laws were enacted in 1865, 1878 and 1882, forests were nationalized and maintained.

On 25.07.2018, Hon'ble Amma's Government proclaimed an exclusive Forest Policy. It was a historic achievement. In this policy, emphasis is laid on certain exclusive features like the long coastline of the State, the meeting of the eastern and western mountain ranges, dry weather and the need to solve the problem of water scarcity and the importance of increasing the tree population by growing trees outside forest areas.

The Vision 2023 document published by the Tamil Nadu Government in 2014 emphasizes preserving ecological balance all over the State. Targets are fixed for attaining a 33 per cent forest/thickest cover.

Tamil Nadu's forest area is 26,281 sq. kms. as per the report for the year 2017 of the Forest Survey of India organization. This is 20.21 per cent of the State's total geographical area. A comparison of the Forest Survey of India's 2015 and 2017 reports reveals that the forest area of Tamil Nadu has increased by 75 sq.km. This is accomplished by the adherence of the policy of increasing the area of forest/ thickest inside and outside forest areas.

With a view to strengthening the Wild Life Protection Act, 15 wildlife sanctuaries, 15 bird sanctuaries, 5 national parks, 4 tiger reserves and 3 biosphere reserve zones were declared as Reserve Areas. Tamil Nadu remains the premier State in India in wildlife protection.

In connection with her birthday, Hon'ble Amma launched a massive tree planting scheme with the aim of increasing the green cover in the State and reducing the effects of environmental

pollution. Hon'ble Amma's Government continues to implement the scheme from 2011-2012 and I am proud to say that so far 4.69 crore tree saplings have been planted and maintenance works undertaken. With a target of planting 71 lakh tree saplings for 2019-2020, the scheme continues to be implemented.

The Forest Department is implementing many schemes connected with forest growth and conservation. Duty conscious workers in the Forest Department are very essential to implement these schemes. Recruitment of enough staff in the Forest Department has become necessary to protect the existing forest area and expand forest area outside the forest. I wish to state at this juncture, in this situation, considering more than 45 per cent vacancies among field workers, Hon'ble Amma, created the Tamil Nadu Forest Uniformed Services Recruitment Committee in 2012, a first in entire India.

Through this committee, online recruitment was introduced for the first time, recruitment centres were set up in all District headquarters and recruitment was conducted. 726 forest guards, 152 forest guards with driving licence and 300 foresters were selected through this committee in 2018. In December that year, I distributed appointment orders to them.

I feel pride in pointing out that 190 women forest watchers have been recruited for the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu Forest Department.

At present, 595 persons have completed their training. My hearty congratulations to them. I am happy to learn that the training given

to the recruits included besides 9 classroom lessons, commando and arms training of the Police Department to face different field problems, handling wildlife outside forest and basic field training like fire-fighting, harvesting of trees like teak and raising nurseries and gardens. Over and above Department Oriented Training, they have been trained in swimming and driving vehicles.

Different works await you on joining forest service. You should discharge them efficiently and with total dedication innumerable forest-related works like protecting forest animals, protecting forests from encroachers, developing and maintaining forests, guarding the forest dwelling scheduled tribes and safeguarding the natural resources of the motherland - animals, birds, butterflies, trees, plants and creepers.

I assure you that Hon'ble Amma's Government will ever be supportive of you in your work. Once again, I convey my hearty congratulations and appreciation to you for completing the training in a good way.

Trees are the Earth's riches; they are the wind's hands; they cast an emerald sheet on land and adorn it; they are sanctuaries for birds and are the abode of Nature.

Trees are Earth's riches; they are wind's hands; sanctuaries for birds. When trees increase, the air cools down and atmospheric temperature gets even; carbon-dioxide density does not shoot up; no hole develops in the ozone layer; the earth smiles; crops flourish; diseases plummet; water resources are conserved; healthy human resources develop in the country.

There is no doubt that Forest Department plays an important role in the protection of Nature, safety of wildlife and in human development. Your role in this forest service is praiseworthy. My hearty greetings to you for carrying out this work in an excellent manner.

I also wish to state that Hon'ble Minister for Forest is to visit zoos in countries like Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand for modernizing the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai and introducing in Tamil Nadu the modern practices adopted in those countries. We propose to do it shortly. I am also happy to announce that the Government will take steps to enrich the Arignar Anna Zoological Park with many kinds of rare animals and birds.

This service is an important service. Though there are many Departments, it is the Forest Department that rejuvenates Nature. You have completed training in such a Department and joined it. May you add glory to Tamil Nadu through your excellent service! I take leave of you, thankful for this opportunity.

Nandri! Vanakkam.

High-powered panel formed to facilitate swift clearances for new investors

A high level delegation headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited UK, USA and Dubai from 28.08.2019 to 09.09.2019 for attracting investments into Tamil Nadu. These events evoked overwhelming response from prospective investors. During the visit, MoUs were signed with 41 companies for a total investment of Rs.8,835 crore and with potential employment to 35,520 persons. In order to enhance the facilitation provided to the investors and to expedite the necessary clearances to ensure these investments, a High Powered Committee for investment facilitation and Single Window clearances has been constituted with Hon'ble Chief Minister as Chairman and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers for Electricity, Prohibition & Excise, Municipal Administration & Rural Development, Implementation of Special Programmes, Industries, Environment and Revenue, Disaster Management & Information Technology Departments, Chief Secretary and the respective Secretaries to Government as Members. The Principal Secretary, Industries will act as the Member Secretary to the Committee.

The Committee will meet in the first week of every month to monitor the progress of investment facilitation activities and pending clearances under the single window system and other clearances like environmental clearances with State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) etc., The committee will resolve cases where the clearances are pending beyond the time limit fixed by the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Rules or pending beyond a month with other agencies like SEIAA. Further, an Investment Facilitation Cell has been constituted in the Chief Minister's Office with an I.A.S. Officer as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to deal with the issues of major investors and facilitate investments in Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Chief Minister oversees investment of Rs.5,573.89 crore

MoUs signed for 15 Industrial Ventures with job opportunities for 28,566 persons

In the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, MoUs were signed at the Secretariat on 26.09.2019, on behalf of the Industries Department with 15 industrial units for an investment of Rs.5,573.89 crore that will provide employment to 28,566 people.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation stones for 5 Industrial schemes, including TATA Consultancy Services and Schwing Stetter India Pvt. Ltd., as per the MoUs signed with them at the Global Investors Meet held in Chennai in 2019. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated commercial operations of Niswin Foods Pvt. Ltd., JS Autocast Ltd., and ITW India Pvt. Ltd., which have an investment of Rs.121.12 crore, facilitating job opportunities to 1,280 people.

To speed up industrial growth, the Tamil Nadu Government, running on the lines of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been taking various measures. Due to these measures, Tamil Nadu is always in the forefront in attracting entrepreneurs and investors. In this direction, MoUs have been signed for starting new units with 15 industries.

1. Mahle Electric Drives India Private Limited will set up its unit at the R.K.G Industrial Park, Coimbatore, for manufacturing Starter Motors and Controllers with an investment of Rs.50 crore, offering employment for 200 people.
2. Information and Communication Service Centre of the Infosys Private Limited at Sholinganallur, Chennai, with an investment

of Rs.336 crore giving employment to 16,000 people;

3. Japan's Nissei Electric India Pvt. Ltd., to set up units for manufacturing spare parts for electrical works at Mahindra Industrial Park in Gummudipundi in Tiruvallur District at a cost of Rs.79.82 crore, with employment to 150 people;

4. Spare parts manufacturing unit for Electric Cars by the South Korean firm Younghwa Tech with an investment of Rs.69 crore in SIPCOT Vallam-Vadakal Industrial Park in Kancheepuram District with jobs for 100 people;

5. Wind Turbines unit of the Vestas at a cost of Rs.626 crore at Hiranandani Green Base Industrial and Logistics Park, Oragadam in Kancheepuram District, giving employment to 500 people;

6. Wind Turbines manufacturing unit by Shree Vaari Energy Systems, with an investment of Rs.250 crore at Melakaranthai in Thoothukudi District and employment to 300 people;

7. Garment and Spinning Mill unit by the Ambika Cotton Mills at Kanniyapuram in Dindigul District with an investment of Rs.182.50 crore with an employment potential for 450 people;

8. Free Trade Warehousing Zone by Venkatesh Coke FTWZ at Ennore in Chennai, with an investment of 1,529.57 crore that will offer employment to 6,600 people;

9. An LPG bottling unit at Kallipalayam in Coimbatore and LPG Import Terminal Expansion at Thoothukudi by the SHV Energy at a total cost of Rs.590 crore, with employment opportunities to 500 people;

10. Free Trade Warehouse/ Logistics by NDR Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., at Minjur in Tiruvallur District with an investment Rs. 292 crore that will provide employment to 1,000 people;

11. Free Trade Warehousing Zone by J.Matadee Free Trade Zone Pvt. Ltd., at Mannur in Sriperumpudur in Kancheepuram District with an investment of Rs.500 crore that will have employment opportunities to 1,000 people;

12. Research and Development Section by the BSH Household Appliance Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd., at SIPCOT Pillaipakkam Industrial Park at Kancheepuram District with an investment of 118 crore and employment to 391 people;

13. Automobile spare units at Padappai in Kancheepuram District, at Viralimalai in Pudukkottai District and at Singampuneri in Sivaganga District by M.M.Forgins with a total investment of Rs. 511 crore, with job potential for 600 people;

14. Garment and Spinning Mill by PKPN Group at Pallipalayam in Namakkal District with an investment of Rs.390 crore providing employment to 475 people;

15. With a view to reopening the closed Tamil Nadu Explosives Ltd., at Katpadi in Vellore District, an explosives manufacturing unit to be set up at a cost of Rs.50 crore through a lease basis with Bharath Electronics Limited, one of the Nine Gems of the Union Government, providing employment to 300 people;

MoUs were thus signed with 15 firms in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami, for starting new industries with a total investment of Rs.5,573 crore that will offer employment opportunity to 28,566 people.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated commercial operations in the following units, with whom MoUs have been signed at the Global Investors Meet, 2019 for

an investment of Rs.121.12 crore providing employment to 1,280 people:

- ✶ Wheat Flour Unit by Niswin Foods Pvt. Ltd., at a cost of Rs. 20.12 crore at Kallapalayam in Sulur in Coimbatore District providing employment to 580 people;
- ✶ Raw and Machine Casting Unit of the J.S.Autocast Ltd., with an investment of Rs.39 crore at SIPCOT Perundurai Industrial Park in Erode District, with employment to 500 people; and
- ✶ Automobile Spare Parts Unit of the ITW India Pvt. Ltd., set up at a cost of Rs. 62 crore providing employment to 200 people at SIPCOT Vallam-Vadakal Industrial Park in Kacheepuram District.

At the Global Investors Meet 2019, MoUs were signed with industrial units for an investment of Rs.1,250 crore that will provide employment to 15,200 people. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu laid foundation stones for these units:

- ✶ Information Technology Scheme of the TATA Consultancy Services with an investment of Rs.900 crore that will provide employment to 15,000 people at SIPCOT- Siruseri Information Tech Park in Kancheepuram District.
- ✶ Construction gadget manufacturing unit of the Schwing Stetter India Pvt. Ltd., at an estimated investment of Rs.350 crore, which will provide employment to 200 people at SIPCOT Cheyyaru Industrial Park in Tiruvannamalai District.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid foundation stones for the following projects:

- ✶ CNC Machine Manufacturing unit by the Tsugami Precision Engg India Pvt. Ltd., with an investment of Rs.107.58 crore providing employment to 320 peope at SIPCOT-Vadakal Industrial Park in Kancheepuram District;
- ✶ Masterbatches manufacturing project of the Alok Masterbatches Pvt. Ltd., with an investment of Rs.64.62 crore at SIPCOT Industrial Park at Ranipet in Vellore District providing jobs for 130 people;
- ✶ Plastic Moulding and Chrome Planting Manufacturing Project of the Galva Decoparts Pvt. Ltd., with an investment of Rs.58.50 crore offering employment to 350 people at SIPCOT Cheyyaru Industrial Park in Tiruvannamalai District.

On behalf of the Industries Department, 15 MoUs were signed on 26.09.2019 in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, who also inaugurated commercial operations of 3 industrial projects and laid foundation stones for 5 industrial projects, with a total investment of Rs.7,175.71 crore and employment opportunities to 45,846 people.

Khadi Board's Shampoo, Bodywash and Handwash launched

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 26.09.2019, launched a shampoo 'Saral', a bodywash 'Ezhil' and a liquid handwash 'Vaigai', all three products produced by the Tamil Nadu Khadi Village and Industries Board.

The Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board has set up a liquid soap and shampoo manufacturing unit at a cost of Rs.30 lakh, on a site belonging to the Board at Kandanur in Sivagangai District. The Board manufactures Shampoo Named 'Saral' with Aloe, Gooseberry, Vegetable Oil, Tea tree oil, Jojoba oil, Turmeric and Menthol. It is available in 100 ml and 200 ml packs. The bodywash Ezhil, with ingredients of Aloe, Gooseberry and Glycerin is available in 200 ml packs and bodywash 'Vaigai' made with Aloe, Turmeric, and Glycerin, in 260 ml packs.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister introduced all the three products at the Secretariat on 26.09.2019. These products are to be marketed through Khadi Craft Centres, Fair Price Shops and Supermarkets.

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** delivered an address and participated in a meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on 25.09.2019, with Kerala Chief Minister **Thiru. Pinarayi Vijayan**, on sharing of river waters between the two States.

'Donate blood, let's achieve the 100 per cent target'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on National Voluntary Blood Donation Day - 30.09.2019 (*English Translation*)

As blood is the pulse of life, its donation is a sacred act of saving precious human lives. To create awareness among people about such an important act of blood donation, October 1st every year is observed as National Voluntary Blood Donation Day. The theme for the observance of the day this year is 'Donate blood at least once in a life time'.

The Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society and the Tamil Nadu State Blood Transfusion Council are jointly creating awareness among people on the importance of blood donation. By way of encouraging blood donation, 'memes competition' was held District-wise this year and winners were given certificates of appreciation and special prizes by the respective District Collectors. The Tamil Nadu Government also honours every year voluntary blood donors, organizers of the best blood donation camp and the staff of the Government Blood Bank, with certificates and medals.

The Tamil Nadu Government that acts on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing schemes like distribution of air-conditioned ultra modern vehicles for transporting the blood collected in the blood donation camps to blood banks so as to preserve the donated blood in the best possible way and make use of it, fixing data logger to monitor the thermal condition of the auxiliary equipment for preserving blood in blood banks and providing refresher courses to laboratory technicians and counsellors, employed in Government Blood Banks in the Stanley Government Hospital as guided by the National AIDS Control Organization.

As a result of all these steps, last year Tamil Nadu is a pioneer State in India in voluntary blood donation through collection of 9,16,929 units of blood in Government and private blood banks. To hit the 100 per cent target in voluntary blood donation in Tamil Nadu in the current year, I affectionately request the people to come forward to donate blood in a big way.

Let us donate blood with joy!
Let us save human lives !!

Hon'ble Chief Minister flags off 370 new buses worth Rs.109 crore for Public use

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 26.09.2019, flagged off for public use, 370 new buses worth Rs.109 crore, on behalf of the State Transport Corporations.

The Tamil Nadu Government, functioning on the lines of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma have been operating buses to meet the travel requirement of the public, through 8 Transport Corporations not only in Tamil Nadu but in neighbouring States such as Puducherry, Karnataka, Andhra and Kerala. On an average about 1.74 crore passengers are benefited every day by these Corporation buses. For the convenience of the travelling public, new buses and routes are introduced at periodic intervals. For the welfare of the Transport Corporation employees, resting rooms with improved quality, new depots and office buildings are declared open. For the passengers, advance ticket booking is available online and bus passes at no cost are given to students and senior citizens.

To meet the transport requirements of the public, 30 buses to Metro Transport Corporation, 65 buses to State Express Transport Corporation, 27 buses to Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Villupuram), 57 buses to Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Salem), 104 buses to Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Coimbatore), 41 buses to Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Kumbakonam), 20 buses to Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Madurai) and 26 buses to Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Tirunelveli), totally 370 buses costing Rs.109 were handed over by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, who flagged off the 5 new buses as a token at the Secretariat in Chennai. With these new buses, the Government has so far introduced 13,253 new buses for the benefit of the public since May 2011.

Hon'ble Chief Minister oversees agreement for 2,213 new buses, 500 electric buses

In the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, a project agreement was signed between the Tamil Nadu Government's Transport Department and the German Development Bank KfW at the Secretariat on 26.09.2019, for the purchase of 2,213 new buses of BS-VI standard and 500 electric buses, with loan assistance from the German Development Bank to modernize the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation's fleet.

The Tamil Nadu Government, running on the lines of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, decided to operate Electric Buses in Tamil Nadu with a view to protecting the environment and reducing air pollution. Towards this end, an agreement was signed between the International Agency C-40 having headquarters at London and the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation on 28.03.2018. Based on the advice of the Agency which has technicians and advisers of international repute, the Tamil Nadu Government decided to operate electric buses in Tamil Nadu.

As a step forward in this direction, for the first time in the history of the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation, electric buses were introduced in Chennai Metro Transport Corporation and the Hon'ble Chief Minister flagged off the electric buses on 26.08.2019 for the use of the public.

In the 2019-2020 Budget proposals of Tamil Nadu, it was announced that a new project would be launched in the State for purchase and use of 12,000 New BS-VI standard Buses and 2,000 Electric buses with a loan assistance of Rs.5,890 crore from the German Development Bank (KfW).

In the first phase, a Project Agreement was signed between the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation and the German Development Bank (KfW) for the purchase of 2,213 new buses with BS-VI standard and 500 electric buses at a cost of Rs.1,580 crore (203 Million Euros) in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Secretariat on 26.09.2019.

Through this agreement, the following schemes will be implemented: establishing charging stations for the Electric Buses, procuring software and hardware for modernization of operation of the Transport Corporation, installing Passenger Information System, getting the advice of people of International repute and introducing cashless tickets.

An enthusiastic welcome with traditional cultural events
People's Republic of China,

was given to **Mr. Xi Jinping,** Hon'ble President of the
on his arrival in Tamil Nadu (11.10.2019)

When the world turned to Tamil Nadu

'Thanks to Hon'ble Prime Minister for India-China Summit in State'

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** thanking the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, for selecting Tamil Nadu for hosting the India-China bilateral talks, and to the people for giving a very good reception to the two great leaders during their presence in the State - 12.10.2019 (*English Translation*)

At the outset, I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu for selecting Mamallapuram, which is known for its tradition and culture, for hosting the historic India-China Summit. Through this act, Shri Narendra Modi, who has raised the reputation of India in the world forum and who is now standing tall among global leaders, has raised the standing of Tamil Nadu at the International level. The summit has turned the world's attention towards Tamil Nadu.

My sincere thanks to the people of Tamil Nadu, especially students, for giving an enthusiastic reception to the two great world leaders.

I thank the artists, who through our traditional arts, delighted not only the two leaders but all people.

I congratulate the Hon'ble Ministers, who made all arrangements for organizing the cultural events in an excellent manner.

I thank the Police Department for making excellent security arrangements.

I also thank and congratulate the Revenue Department, Local Administration Department, Highways Department, Public Works Department, Electricity Board, all other Government Departments and employees belonging to all Government Departments for integrating all the arrangements in an admirable manner.

Hon'ble Chief Minister declares open 14 bridges constructed in nine Districts

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 26.09.2019, threw open through video conferencing, 14 bridges in Namakkal, Erode, Tiruppur, Karur, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli, Dindigul, Thoothukudi and Dharmapuri Districts, constructed at a cost of Rs.35.19 crore, on behalf of the Highways and Small Ports Department.

Realizing the role of road infrastructure in socio-economic development, the Tamil Nadu Government, following the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been increasing the capacity of roads in proportion to the increasing traffic and constructing new bridges and laying new, quality roads.

As a part of the above measures, 14 new bridges were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The bridges are located at Erumaipatti on the Erumaipatti-Varagur Road built at a cost of Rs. 1.81 crore and at Pachampalayam on the Sankagiri bypass road, at a cost of Rs. 1.54 crore both in Namakkal District; Peralimedu on the Kasbapettai-Kanagapuram Road in Erode District, at a cost of Rs. 1.26 crore; in Tiruppur District at Karukkampalayam on the Erode-Dharapuram Road, at a cost of Rs. 4.94 crore and on Millgate on the Pollachi-Dharapuram-Karur Road at a cost Rs.2.75 crore, in Karur District, in 6.Mettur on the Manapparai- Guziliamparai Road in Karur District at a cost of Rs. 1.09 crore; in Coimbatore District at Chennampalayam on the Kumarankundru- Vellikuppampalayam at a cost of Rs.2.60 crore and at Vellalur on the Podanur- Vellalur Road at a cost of Rs. 1.10 crore; across Kuzhiyaru to link

Agalanganallur with Tirumangalam in Tiruchirapalli District at a cost of Rs.7.80 crore; at Jangalpatti on the Sakkaya nayakkanur - Jangalpatti Road in Dindigul District at a cost of Rs.1.65 crore; at Velidupatti on the Kovilpatti - Pillaiyarnatham Road, at a cost of Rs. 1.21 crore, at Kottur at a cost of Rs.80 lakh and at Perurani on the Pottalurani - Mangalagiri Road at a cost of Rs.1.85 crore (all in Thoothukudi District) and across Chinnaru at Ammani Mallapuram on the Ammani Mallapuram - Chandrapuram Road in Dharmapuri District at a cost of Rs.4.79 crore.

Totally 14 bridges, built at a total cost of Rs.35.19 crore were declared open for public use by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, through video conferencing from the Secretariat.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a high-level bridge across the Bhavani river on the Puliampatti-Bannari Road in Erode District, to be constructed at an estimate of Rs.7.98 crore.

For the use of employees engaged in land acquisition work for the Chennai Peripheral Road, 5 jeeps procured at a cost of Rs.35 lakh were handed over to them by Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami.

92nd birth anniversary of Nadigar Thilagam Chevalier Sivaji Ganesan

In connection with the 92nd birth anniversary of Nadigar Thilagam Chevalier Sivaji Ganesan, held on 01.10.2019 behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government at the Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan Manimandapam, Durgabai Deshmukh Road, Adyar, Chennai, Hon'ble Ministers Thiru. D.Jayakumar (Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms),Thiru. Kadambur Raju (Information and Publicity) and Thiru. P. Benjamin (Rural Industries), Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., Director, Department of Information and Public Relations Dr. P. Sankar I.A.S., and family members of Thiru. Sivaji Ganesan paid floral tributes to the portrait placed near his statue in the Manimandapam.

Review meeting to ensure readiness in face of North East Monsoon

A review meeting of the Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Authority was held under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to take stock of the advance measures taken by the Government in view of the forthcoming North East Monsoon.

The Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Authority organized a meeting on 23.09.2019 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, to evaluate the advance measures taken by the Government in view of the forthcoming North East Monsoon during 2019. Under the South East Monsoon, 5 Districts received less rainfall, 14 Districts received more than average rainfall and in the remaining 13 Districts, the rainfall was normal.

The Tamil Nadu Government has identified 4,399 vulnerable areas, which are likely to be affected due to North East Monsoon rains and formed 662 regional committees. In addition, 30,759 first grade rescuers including 9,162 women, have been identified. 3,824 first grade rescuers have been identified for planting trees during normal period and for cutting and removing uprooted trees in case of disaster.

As permanent flood protection measures, 13,318 check dams have been constructed and de-silting operations have been completed in 14,627 canal water ways and 3,174 k.m. long river beds. Blocks in 6,320 bridges and 1,01,582 small bridges have been removed. About 7.44 crore cubic metres of alluvial soil have been de-silted and 6.60 lakh farmers have been benefited by using the alluvial soil. Apart from 121 multi-purpose safety centres, 4,768 schools, 105 colleges, 2,394 marriage halls and community centres have been kept ready. In Districts, 3,915 tree sawing machines, 2,897 JCBs, 2,115 generators and 483 big pumping motors have been kept ready as search and rescue gadgets.

First grade mobile rescue committees have been formed at the area / circle / regional levels

and for these committee members training has been given at the District level. Apart from 1,000 strong Tamil Nadu Disaster Response Force, totally 6,606 trained rescuers are kept ready in all Districts, including 4,155 in Coastal Districts (excluding Chennai), 1,844 in other Districts and 607 in Chennai District. Under the Tamil Nadu Fire Service and Rescue Force, 4,537 Fire Service Personnel and 1,400 volunteers have been given training. In addition, 2,000 people were given training.

Steps are being taken to provide information regarding disasters to the public through Emergency Control Rooms at the District and State level, TNSMART App and Social media, electronic and print media.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has issued instructions to take the following steps during the Monsoon.

- ✶ The needed men and tree-cutting machines should be there to remove uprooted trees on the road during the rainy season and electric motors to pump out water from the stagnated areas should be kept in a state of preparedness;
- ✶ Rescue teams, with necessary gadgets should be in a State of alertness to reach the the vulnerable areas quickly ;
- ✶ There should be enough stock of bleaching powder and medicines as preventive measure to prevent the spreading of contagious diseases during the monsoon;
- ✶ There should be adequate stock of medicines in private hospitals and Government Hospitals;
- ✶ Steps have been taken to keep at least 2 months stock of ration articles in all fair price shops to avoid shortage of articles at the time of Disaster;
- ✶ Under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, review meeting should be conducted with Central / State Government officials and 3 Service Chiefs on the preparedness of the Government machinery for the disaster.
- ✶ IAS Officers appointed specifically for supervision, giving guidance and monitoring, in Districts and Greater Chennai Corporation should conduct regular review meetings in their respective areas from the first week of October to check the preparedness for managing the situation during and after any disaster;
- ✶ All Departmental Secretaries should act in co-ordination to avoid loss of human lives and damages to properties during disaster;
- ✶ Gadgets and special equipment worth Rs.30.27 crore will be purchased for the Tamil Nadu Disaster Response Force, worth Rs.7.25 crore for Chennai Corporation and 1 crore (NavIC and NAVTEX) for the Fisheries Department, to strengthen each of them. Totally, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu sanctioned Rs.38.52 crore for purchase of gadgets and special equipment. Hon'ble Ministers, including the Deputy Chief Minister and Senior IAS Officers, including the Chief Secretary participated in the meeting.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates Law College

'Fast-growing Salem will be developed on par with advanced foreign countries'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** after inaugurating the New Law College at Salem on 19.08.2019 *(English Translation)*

Bowing to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

At the outset, my humble greetings to all those participating in this event.

There is an anuual increase in the number of students taking to the study of law in Tamil Nadu. Three New Government Law Colleges are proposed to be started this year to help students from the socio-economically backward families to study law. A sum of Rs.9,52,50,000 has been allotted for this purpose. Accordingly, a new college has been inaugurated at Salem. A Special Officer has been appointed for each of these colleges for taking up the preliminary works. Additional classrooms with adequate infrastructure are to be constructed at a cost of Rs.7.70 crore for the

Government Law Colleges at Coimbatore and Tirunelveli.

Dr. Ambedkar Law University is the first University to be started for the study of law in the South Asia. This University is offering law courses at the lowest fee in the whole of Asia. A separate new campus was set up for this University at a cost of Rs. 62 crore at Perungudi, Chennai and Hon'ble Amma declared it open. Also, the Government has allotted 10 acres of land additionally for the expansion of this University. Of the 13 law colleges under this University, 11 are Government Law Colleges. Last year, Government Law Colleges were started at Villupuram, Dharmapuri and Ramanathapuram. For own buildings for these colleges, funds have been allotted and works are apace. They will be completed shortly.

Amma established a Tamil Nadu National Law School at a cost of Rs.79.22 crore at Navalur Kuttapattu Village, Srirangam Taluk, Tiruchirapalli District.

The Tamil Nadu Ambedkar Law University has set up at its Perungudi campus, the All India Reporter (AIR) Cafe to help law students get the best training in studying law.

On account of the persistent efforts of Hon'ble Amma's Government, Supreme Court judgments are now published in the Tamil language. Hon'ble Amma's Government continues to insist on the Central Government making Tamil as a medium of Court language in the Madras High Court.

Considering the importance of introducing e-governance practices in the judiciary and keeping in mind the benefits that accrue to people out of it, Hon'ble Amma's Government, on the request of the High Court, has introduced the use of judicial electronic stamp paper as a precursor to bringing about e-governance totally in this field.

The Tamil Nadu Government has allotted sufficient funds for digitization in the judiciary. The Government has created 1,188 posts at various levels to help early disposal of pending cases in different Courts in the State.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is alive to the need of fulfilling immediately, the needs of the courts inclusive of infrastructure and staff, and is conducting itself accordingly.

I am happy to inform that conceding the requests of MLAs Thiru. Venkatachalam and Thiru. Vetrivel, bus transport facility – 6 trips in the morning, noon and evening – has been provided from Omalur via Muthunayakkanpatti, Palakuttapatti, K.R.Thoppur and Kadayampatti in a new bus route from today onwards. Also Amma's Government has started air-conditioned

bus service with sleeper facility from Salem to Chennai and Bengaluru.

For Salem city, we have implemented many schemes. Through a separate water supply scheme, we are providing uninterrupted protected Cauvery water to all the 60 wards on such a scale that we can say there is no drinking water supply problem anywhere in the city. We can say that Salem has more (road) bridges than any other city. Flyovers have been constructed all over Salem city like those at Five roads bridge, Thiruvagoundanur bridge, A.V.R. Roundtana bridge, a bridge in Steel Plant area, one near Kandampatti, two near Mulluvadi Gate and one in Manalmedu. MLAs Thiru. Sakthivel and Thiru. Venkatachalam have requested the widening of the bridge at Seelanayakkanpatti to avert traffic congestion. I wish to state that Amma's Government will take steps for that also.

I am proud to say that for the first time in the State, a bus port with all facilities is be set up in Salem city on a 67.5 acres area. We have also set up 18 parks in Salem Corporation limits to enable people to undertake walking exercise.

In the DMK's rule, an underground drainage scheme was started but was stopped in the middle as the work was not assigned to contractors properly. We revived the scheme and implemented it fully. In deference to the demands of the general public and Members of the Legislative Assembly, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, created at one go, the three taluks of Salem North, Salem South and Salem West and new buildings were constructed for their offices.

A request made by the former Mayor Thiru.Natesan that a school was necessary at Maniyanur was accepted by Amma and the school was declared open by Amma. The newly started law college is to function from that place.

In the same way, we are also implementing many mega schemes in Salem city at a cost of Rs.948 crore under the Smart City Programme. Among these schemes, an allotment of Rs.165 crore has been made for drinking water supply, Rs.145 crore for underground drainage, Rs.92 crore for converting the old bus stand into a two-tier bus stand and Rs.72 crore for transforming the Nehru Art Gallery into an excellent gallery with all features. For restoration of Kumaragiri lake and Pallapatti lake also, funds have been allotted under this programme and works on them have been started. Underground drainage and supply of electricity through underground cables have been implemented.

New buildings will be constructed this year itself for the Salem Government Law College on the Salem-Kovai National Highway, opposite to the Annapoorna Medical College and conditions will be created for students to study there.

A sewage treatment plant will be set up at a cost of Rs.100 crore in Salem city for preventing the sewage water from polluting Thirumanimutharu.

Construction works are going on for the Government Law Colleges at Villupuram, Dharmapuri and Ramanathapuram, announced last year.

Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government is one that honours its commitments. Salem is a growing city. Stating that it will be developed on a par with the advanced foreign countries, I thank all those who have made excellent arrangements at short notice and remained supportive of the inauguration of this college. ●

Rs.1 crore cheque to build Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Film Shooting Floor

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 16.09.2019, handed over a cheque for Rs.1 crore to Thiru. R.K. Selvamani, President of the Film Workers Federation of South India (FEFSI), for setting up Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Film Shooting Floor near to the M.G.R. Centenary Film Shooting Floor at Paiyanur in Kancheepurm District.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had declared open the Dr.M.G.R. Centenary Film Shooting Floor at Paiyanur in Kancheepuram District, on 26.08.2019 on behalf of the Film Workers' Federation of South India. On the occasion, the Federation submitted a memorandum to the Hon'ble Chief Minister urging the Tamil Nadu Government to construct a shooting floor near the M.G.R. Centenary Shooting Floor. Favourably considering the Federation's demand, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced that Rs.5 crore would be sanctioned on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government for setting up a shooting floor in the name of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, near the M.G.R. Centenary Film Shooting Floor.

In continuation of the announcement that Rs.5 crore would be given on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government for constructing the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Floor at Paiyanur in Kancheepuram District, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over a cheque for Rs.1 crore to the President of the FFSI, Thiru. Selvamani, at the Secretariat in Chennai.

Parents won't frown at their kids for watching television

Hon'ble Chief Minister launches 'Education TV' for students

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** after launching Education TV channel *(Kalvi Tholaikaatchi)* of the Tamil Nadu Government at Anna Centenary Library Auditorium, Chennai on 26.08.2019 *(English Translation)*

I offer my obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O. Panneerselvam who has delivered an excellent speech in this inspiring event, Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Thiru. P.Dhanapal, Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru. K.A.Sengottaiyan, who has delivered the Munnilai address, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru. D.Jayakumar who has given the felicitation address, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry Thiru. Udumalai Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Disaster Management and Information Technology Thiru. R.B. Udhayakumar, Hon'ble Ministers, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Text Book and Education Services Corporation Tmt. B. Valamathi, Respected Chief Secretary to Government Thiru. K.Shanmugam who has delivered the welcome address, Principal Secretary, Department of School Education Thiru. Pradeep Yadav, Teachers, the fountainhead of education, Elders, Ladies, Students, rulers of tomorrow's world, press and

media friends - my humble greetings to all of you.

'What has been learnt is little; what remains to be learnt is as vast as the world' *(Katradhu kaimann alavu; kallaadhadhu ulagalavu),* said Avvaiyar. A man's life gets fulfillment only through education. One cannot reach the horizons of education even if one learns all through one's life without a pause.

Education removes our ignorance and expands our knowledge. It gives us all kinds of rewards like righteousness, wealth and joy. Besides these, the educated ones attain fame also. Kumaraguruparar has said: 'When cares assail us, it is knowledge that shows the way out'. Hence, there cannot be a better support to a man than education. In the Kural *'Karka kasadara karpavai kattrapin nirka atharku thaga', 'Deiva Pulavar'* Thiruvalluvar says that one must thoroughly study the right works and then follow their tenets in life. This advice should be followed by all those who are students.

For the development of intellectual resources, quality education should be ensured to all without any hassle. Excellent education and physical well-being will boost human resources. When there is growth in human resources, the State's development will be uniform.

"It is my principle and my Government's goal that no one in Tamil Nadu should be illiterate…" said Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. In keeping with her statement that " I will do what I say; I will say what I do", she brought about a revolution in the sphere of education in Tamil Nadu through the schemes she implemented. I wish to pointedly mention the steps taken by Hon'ble Amma and Hon'ble Amma's Government.

✶ Giving special priority to provide educational facility for all children nearer to their places of dwelling, 248 new primary schools were started by the Government in the last 8 years and 117 primary schools were upgraded into middle-level schools.

✶ The Tamil anthology Narunthogai says, *'Karkai nandre, karkai nandre, pichai puginum karkai nandre',* meaning that one should pursue education even by getting assistance from others. But Hon'ble Amma designed many schemes through which the Government takes on itself all the educational expenses, and implements them. She fulfilled all the essential needs of students for continuing their education, like free education, nutritious noon meal, text books, note books, laptop, school uniform, footwear, school bag, crayons, colour pencils, geometry box, atlas, woollen coat, rainy season apparels, gumboots, socks, bus pass and bicycle – all at no cost.

✶ I am proud to say that as a result of the many schemes implemented by Hon'ble Amma's Government in the field of education, the number of children not going to school and the percentage of drop-outs have come down greatly. Besides, I am proud to say that Tamil Nadu is occupying the premier place in the whole of India in the number of students pursuing higher education as a result of the higher percentage of student admissions brought about by the opening of many schools – primary, middle level, high and higher secondary - by Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

✶ Education is not mere rote learning but should kindle thought. Hon'ble Amma's Government is well aware of this and has published new syllabi for classes up to

12th standard. Teachers too are given training to teach based on these syllabi.

- ✶ In the context of fast-changing learning methods, linking information technology skills in schools has become essential. For this, high tech laboratory facilities are being set up in Government high and higher secondary schools at a cost of Rs.520.13 crore.
- ✶ In Government primary and middle-level schools, smart classes have been set up.
- ✶ Infrastructure facilities in Government schools have been upgraded in 2018-2019 at a cost of Rs.277.69 crore.
- ✶ Training centres all over the State have been set up to help students studying in Government and Government-aided schools to face the various competitive examinations and benefit out of it.
- ✶ Under the scheme to distribute laptops at no cost to students, so far 46,42,469 laptops valued at Rs.6,613.15 crore have been distributed in the last 8 years.
- ✶ Hon'ble Amma's Government has decided to give 29,891 laptops to post graduate teachers serving in Government schools for improving their work skills. An allotment of Rs.37.86 crore has been made for this.

Like these, Hon'ble Amma's Government has recorded countless achievements in the field of school education. To crown all these achievements, Hon'ble Amma's Government had announced that a new TV channel will be launched to apprise people about the schemes of the Department of School Education and to offer suggestions to students on public examinations, scholarship examinations and entrance examinations.

In accordance with this announcement, a committee was set up with officers of the Department of Education to take up works for launching Education TV *(Kalvi Tholaikaatchi)* channel. Next, a separate committee was set up to take care of the technical side and prepare pre-recorded content for the channel. The tireless work of these two committees has enabled the TV to telecast its programmes from today itself.

I convey my wholehearted appreciation to all of you who have demonstrated this.

For telecasting the programmes for this channel, Rs.1.35 crore has been allotted for purchase of equipment like ultra modern cameras, technical gadgets and drone camera.

Education TV will be available as the 200th channel in the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV network. This channel will telecast only programmes connected with education, round-the-clock.

Programmes are prepared to compete with private channels that function with commercial motives. There will be a variety of programmes that will benefit students, studying from LKG to 12th standard, like training for competitive examinations, developing creativity, experts' answers to clarify students' doubts, announcements of the Department of School Education, interviews of teachers who adopt new methods to teach, inventions of Government school students and conversations with educationists.

Generally, parents are averse to their children seeing TV programmes without concentrating on their studies. Hence, they constantly advise students against viewing TV and ask them to pay attention to their studies. After the launch of this Education TV, students can view news and collect information that will help their study and use them for their benefit. Hereafter, parents too will encourage students to view Education TV. Hence, I affectionately ask students to view Education TV and make use of it in a good way. Teachers and your parents are your best guides. In the prevailing situation, students should not waste their time in viewing unnecessary TV programmes, or on their cellphones and social media platforms. They should see useful TV programmes and come up in life. Through this, a knowledge-based Tamil society can be created. In our student days itself, we should decide what we should be in future – doctor, engineer, sportsperson, teacher, IAS, IPS officers after clearing the Central Government's Civil Service Examination, or whether we want to join the army, or be an industrial entrepreneur or take up bank service. We should then concentrate on studies and achieve our goal. Examinations can

be easily handled and high marks can be scored if the lessons taught by teachers are studied on the very same day. There will be no need to study late in the night. There is the saying that you need a canvas to paint a picture *(Suvar Irundhaalthaan sithiram theetta mudiyum)*. Apart from studies, health is also necessary. Hence attention should be bestowed to physical exercise also.

During the school time of students, Education TV will telecast competitions held in schools, skill development exercises and events offering suggestions to parents. Students should make use of the programmes fully.

Through the launch of Education TV, students, teachers and the general public can come to know immediately about all the Government's activities in regard to education. At this hour, I affectionately request the students and members of the public to make full use of this new Education TV.

I convey my hearty good wishes to the Education Minister who toiled hard for shaping this Education TV, the Principal Secretary who jointly worked with the Minister and Officials of the Education Department who helped him, and others. This is because among all kinds of wealth, education is the best. All other kinds of wealth will perish one time or other. But the wealth of education alone remains with us till our last breath. It is said the educated person is respected wherever he goes. The Government has dedicated Education TV to students to further advance the cause of education. One should develop one's general knowledge. Today's education is no ordinary matter. Centum scorers are many now. Education was a different cup of tea in our time. As scoring centum is possible today, we have dedicated this Education TV to you. Wishing students all the best in making the most of this Education TV for their bright future, I take leave of you. Nandri! Vanakkam!

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** gave his good wishes to Bodybuilder Thiru. S. Bhaskaran, Arjuna Awardee of the Central Government, when the latter called on him at the Secretariat on 16.09.2019.

Hon'ble Chief Minister's exhortation at Madarasapattinam feast

'Return to eating habits of our forefathers, get good health, the greatest wealth'

Inaugural Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the '*Madarasapattinam virundhu – vaanga rasikkalam, rusikkalam*' event (Madarasapattinam feast – Come let us taste and enjoy), organized by the food safety wing of the Health and Family Welfare Department on 13.09.2019 (*English Translation*).

I offer my obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

I am extremely happy to participate in this event of '*Madarasapattinam virundhu – vaanga rasikkalam, rusikkalam*', arranged by the Department of Health to create awareness about the food we take.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam who has given an excellent speech in this event, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Special Programme Implementation Thiru. S.P.Velumani who is gracing this function, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru. D. Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr.C.Vijayabaskar, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Nutritious Meals Scheme Dr. V.Saroja, Hon'ble Ministers, Additional Chief Secretary to the Department of Rural

Development and Panchayat Raj Thiru. Hansraj Varma I.A.S., Principal Secretary of the Department of Municipal Administration and Water Supply Thiru. Harmander Singh I.A.S., Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meals Programme Tmt. S.Madhumathi I.A.S., Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Beela Rajesh I.A.S., Hon'ble Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly, former Ministers, former Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly, former representatives of local bodies, executives of co-operative societies, elders, ladies, High Officials of Government, newspaper and media friends - at the outset, I offer my respects to all of you.

"Food is medicine, medicine is food" is the saying of wise men of yore. But today, food has become a decorative object. We have become slaves to foreign cuisine and different delicacies To lead a healthy life, however, we should come forward to take the healthy and nutritious food of our forefathers.

Deiva Pulavar Thiruvalluvar stated - '*Atrathu arindhu kadaipiditthu maaralla/ Thuikka thuvara pasitthu*' – that is food, conducive to the body should be taken in an empty stomach and after feeling hungry. If we follow this, no disease will come near to us.

The Tamil Nadu Government is creating awareness among people as per the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, implemented all over India, so that they can select safe, nutritious, hygienic, enriched and balanced food. In line with this, I am very happy to inaugurate the '*Madarasapattinam virundhu - vaanga rasikkalam, rusikkalam*' event to be held from this morning to the coming Sunday evening.

Food habits are the prime reason for more younger people being afflicted with blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease. As our forefathers consumed the traditional foodstuffs made of '*saamai', raagi, 'thinai', 'kuthiraivaali', 'kambu', 'cholam*' daily and also engaged in physical work proportionately, diseases like blood pressure, heart attack and diabetes were rare in those days.

We should maintain our health by taking traditional food and undertaking exercise. Even as exercise ensures physical strength yoga and meditation are essential to enliven our minds. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister has implemented this all over India through the 'Fit India' Movement.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India announced many programmes in October last year by way of celebrating round-the-year, the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. In the rally conducted in Tamil Nadu, awareness was created on the importance of food safety, with the taraka mantra of 'less salt', 'less sugar', 'less cholesterol'. Crowning the excellent steps taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government, Tamil Nadu was selected as the best State in food safety and Madurai and Sivakasi were selected as the best cities.

This feast has been arranged to highlight the salient features of the different cuisines prepared and served by select hoteliers in each District. The important feature of this event is the presence of 160 food pavilions to cater to our palate with ever different tastes for the next 3 days. Self Help Groups and Anganwadi workers have put up their stalls under the National Urban Livelihood Movement and there are special stalls by many Districts. Awareness events include quiz, consultative and demonstrative explanations, speeches by VIPs, 'pattimandram', exposition on healthy cooking practices of expert cooks and cultural programmes.

In earlier times, millet varieties like '*keppai kali*', '*varagarisi soru*', '*kambu dosai*' and honey-mixed '*thinai*' flour and the like, used to be the food for a majority of people. The immune system of the body becomes stronger through the consumption of foodstuffs based on *'varagu', 'saamai', 'kambu', 'cholam', 'thinai', 'kuthiraivaali'* and the like; the cholesterol level comes down and the body gets good nutrition and health is preserved. So, we can be healthy and live comfortably by reviving the food habits of our ancestors.

This event is conducted to share views on the lifestyle we should adopt and the nutritious food we should consume for our well being. I affectionately request people to participate in this event in large numbers, benefit from the advice given and create a healthy community, a healthy Tamil Nadu.

As per the Tamil saying 'A disease-free life is inexhaustible wealth', one who is free from sickness lives like a wealthy man. However much wealth we have, once we contract diabetes, we can only gaze at sweets; we cannot consume them. In contrast, a poor man with no diabetes can take any amount of food articles made out of sugar. If one had follows the healthy practices I had spoken of earlier before becoming a victim of blood pressure and diabetes, these illness could have been prevented. If they are contracted, they can only be controlled. There will be a display in this stage of the practices to be adopted to prevent their occurrence.

I wish to inform that I will be inaugurating a massive rally, after the conclusion of this event, to create awareness about rain water harvesting, elimination of plastic and eradication of dengue.

Let us take a pledge to revive in our daily life the traditional food habits of our forefathers which we have forgotten and abandoned, and lead a life of well being.

Conveying my hearty appreciation and thanks to all the good-hearted persons who have arranged this '*Madarasapattinam*' feast in a good manner, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam !

Tamil Nadu ranks first in implementing Poshan Abhiyaan, bags 3 National Awards

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami gave his good wishes to Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Nutritious Meals Scheme Dr. V. Saroja at the Secretariat on 26.08.2019, when she met him and showed him the two National Awards bagged by Tamil Nadu for standing first in the country in the excellent implementation of the *'Poshan Abiyaan'* scheme and another award for being the runner up in the use of Common Application Software (CAS) in Integrated Child Development Scheme works.

The *'Poshan Abiyaan'* scheme aims at making India a malnutrition-free country through the convergence of the works of many Departments. It fixes targets to reduce the manifestation of malnutrition – stunting, weight loss, anaemia and low birth weight, prepares schemes for children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers and implements them. It proposes to achieve the aim through information technology and real-time monitoring by supplying Anganwadi workers smart phones with CAS Apps (Common Application Software), improving the skills of field workers through training, mobilizing community support against malnutrition, adopting new methods, giving concessions, solving and removing deficiencies and co-ordinating the works of different Departments.

The award presentation function for best implementation of *'Poshan Abiyaan'* scheme in the year 2018-2019 was held at New Delhi on 23.08.2019, with the Hon'ble Central Minister for Woman and Child Development presiding over it. At this function, Tamil Nadu was given the award and a cheque for Rs.One crore as incentive for being the premier State status in skill development, co-ordination and innovation

and community mobilization, and an award and a cheque for Rs.1.50 crore as an incentive for bagging the first place at the national level in overall performance, and an award and a cheque for Rs.50 lakh as incentive for coming second at the national level in using the CAS App in the works of integrated child development scheme. The Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Nutritious Meals Scheme received the awards.

In field-work leadership and co-ordination, The Nilgiris District got a State-level award. The award was shown to the Hon'ble Chief Minister by a team led by the District Collector Tmt. J. Innocent Divya I.A.S., and comprised Thiru. P. Babu, Project officer, Rural Development Agency, Dr.S.Porkodi, Deputy Director (Health) and District Project Officer, Integrated Child Development Tmt. T. Devakumari. The Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated them.

Killiyur Taluk in Kanniyakumari District was selected and presented a certificate and a medal for field work leadership and co-ordination at the Taluk level. These were shown to the Hon'ble Chief Minister by Tmt. V. Jayanthi, Child Development Officer, Killiyur Taluk and Dr. M. Rama Malini, Taluk Medical Officer, and he congratulated them.

The award for best team in field work (*Anganwadi* workers, *Anganwadi* assistants, Village Nurse and *Anganwadi* Supervisor) was given to Thiruvadanai Taluk in Ramanathpuram District and Chinnasalem Taluk in Villupuram District and the teams each got the award and a cheque for Rs.2.50 lakh. The teams that got the awards comprised: Thiruvadanai Taluk – Tmt. R. Sivanandavalli, Anganwadi worker, Tmt. N. Santhi, Anganwadi Assistant, Tmt. P. Soundaravalli, Village Nurse, Tmt. R. Bhuvaneswari, Anganwadi Supervisor; Chinnasalem Taluk – Tmt. A. Kanthimathi, Anganwadi worker, Tmt. R. Anjali Devi, Anganwadi Assistant, Tmt. V. Mahalakshmi, Village Nurse, Tmt. A. Santhi, Anganwadi Supervisor. They showed the Hon'ble Chief Minister the awards and received his blessings.

Moreover, 3 Districts and 10 Taluks received awards for best implementation of *'Poshan Abiyaan'* scheme at the State level. Medals and Certificates were announced for them. An incentive of Rs.50,000 each has also been announced for the 147 best teams.

While lauding 'Green Hands Movement' and promising all support...

Hon'ble Chief Minister appeals to people to make tree-planting a movement

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the tree planting awareness event held at the Madras University centenary auditorium on behalf of Isha Yoga Centre - 15.09.2019 *(English Translation)*

I pay my respects to Goddess Hon'ble Amma

I am extremely happy to participate in today's tree planting awareness programme organized by Isha Yoga Centre's unit 'Green Hands Movement' which aims at increasing the green cover in Tamil Nadu through creating environmental awareness and planting trees.

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu who is to deliver a special address, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam who has delivered a special address, Respected President of the Tamil Maanila Congress Party Thiru. G.K.Vasan, the hero of this excellent function, Sadguru, who has delivered the presidential address, the Chairman of the Apollo Hospital and Tmt. Suhasini Maniratnam, Elders, Ladies, Press and Media friends and all other participants – at the outset I offer my grateful thanks to all of you.

Trees are the wealth of the earth, they are the hands of the winds; a cooling unguent of henna on the earth! They cover the earth in beautiful sheets of emerald. They are umbrellas for pedestrians, resting places for travellers, sanctuaries for birds, edicts of sweetness, Nature's fragrance.

The Tamil adage is that the value of shade is known only when experiencing the hot sun. During our times, when we have realized the greatness of shade, it is the duty of all of us to plant saplings and preserve trees over large stretches of land to get the cover of shade.

Trees improve the quality of the air that we breathe; arrest land erosion; bring rains every month. We all know the saying: "Plant trees; Reap rains." If trees are to bring rains, we need forests. Forests are not man-made; trees planted by the earth itself are more in number than those planted by humans. The winds, more than human hands, have planted more trees.

A tree sweats nearly 300 litres of water in a day. It sucks more water than it needs. The excess water evaporates and mixes with the air. It is this excess water that dampens the air and gives coolness to living beings. With this surplus water alone, clouds give us rains.

Trees play an important role in Indian culture. For example, the Neem tree is worshipped along with goddess Mariamman and the Peepal tree with Lord Vinayaka. Even today, it is the practice among many native tribes to worship the tree in their rituals, especially in marriages. The solicitude for trees shown by people is illustrated by an event in which an elderly man who tended two trees in honour of the Marudhu Brothers, defied a royal command to chop off the trees. *'Deiva Pulavar'* Thiruvalluvar has mentioned in his work Thirukkural that, "A fort is that which owns fount of waters crystal clear, An open space, a hill, and shade of beauteous forest near". *(Mani neerum mannum malaiyum aninizhar kaadum udaiyadhu aran)*.

Hon'ble Amma launched a massive tree planting programme in connection with Hon'ble Amma's birthday with the intention of increasing the green cover in the state and reducing the damages caused by environmental pollution. Subsequently, this was continued by Hon'ble Amma's Government from 2011-2012 and 4.69 crore tree saplings had been planted and are being maintained. With a target of planting 71 lakh tree saplings for the year 2019-2020, the scheme continues to be implemented.

So far, 71 lakh tree saplings have been planted in the left out areas of forests in Tamil Nadu under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme, about 8 crore tree saplings have been planted in private lands under the Tamil Nadu Bio-diversity and Greenery Scheme for increasing the tree belt outside reserve forests and getting income to farmers, 2.40 lakh teak wood saplings have been planted in the last 2 years under the Teak Wood Planting Scheme for preventing soil erosion in Cauvery river basin and increasing the tree belt, 9 lakh tree saplings have been planted under the Agri-Forest scheme and under the 'Palm *(Panai)* Tree Planting and Protection Scheme', the palm being Tamil Nadu's State tree, the annual target of sowing two lakh seeds has been carried out for arresting soil erosion, preserving moisture and for ensuring the livelihood of those depending on the *Panai* tree. Also, the Tamil Nadu Government is taking the

necessary steps to sow 2.5 crore palm *(Panai)* seeds through the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has designed the State Forest Policy 2018 with the full knowledge of the challenges that the State faces. The policy has its focus on the state's long coast-line, eastern and western ghats, dry climate, the way water scarcity has to be tackled and the importance of growing trees outside the forest areas also and increasing their numbers.

When the number of trees increases, the surroundings cool down; the stratospheric temperature gets balanced; increase in the density of carbon-di-oxide is averted; ozone layer is protected; crops flourish; diseases decline; water resources are protected; industries advance and develop healthy human resources.

Likewise, Tamil Nadu Eco Tourism Policy 2017 and Tamil Nadu State Environment Policy 2017 were unveiled for controlling environmental pollution and different steps are being taken by the Hon'ble Amma's Government towards their implementation.

I requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister to implement a scheme, *'Nadanthaai Vaazhi Kaveri'* that aims at taking steps to preserve the bio-diversity of the Cauvery river, remove pollutants in the Cauvery and in its tributaries, locate treatment plants to purify the sewage in Cauvery urban areas, implement afforestation in river banks, create infrastructure facilities at river mouth and the like. I am proud to say through this event that Hon'ble President of India lauded this scheme and mentioned it in his Address to Parliament for implementation of similar schemes in the perennial rivers of the country. I also wish to inform that Hon'ble Amma's Government will take steps to prevent the pollution of Bhavani, Vaigai, Amaravathi and Thamirabarani rivers in a similar manner.

For the restoration of Vaigai and Noyyal rivers with financial assistance from NABARD Bank, a three-year scheme from 2017-2018, costing Rs.24.58 crore, was approved and till 2018-2019, an expenditure of Rs.14.06 crore has been incurred. Restoration of Palar river scheme is proposed to be implemented from 2019-2020.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has been devising and implementing many new Water Management Schemes. I wish to particularly mention the *'Kudimaramathu'* scheme that aims at de-silting water resources with people's participation, and the Tamil Nadu Water Conservation and Augmentation Mission.

I wish to inform through this event that the ban on 'single use' plastic articles, effected by Hon'ble Amma's Government, succeeded because each and every citizen supported the scheme and changed his/her habits. For the continuance of this scheme, I wish to recall Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcement of implementing this scheme throughout the country.

Implementation of such measures should not be confined to the Government alone; activists, NGOs and the general

public should join hands and make them a 'people's movement'. Just as Hon'ble Amma's 'rain water harvesting scheme' was turned into a people's movement, we should all join together to make the scheme of planting trees and protecting rivers into a people's movement.

This scheme will expand further if only tree saplings are distributed at celebrations like birthday events of children, marriage functions and at marriage anniversaries. If tree saplings are planted properly and nourished, forests will bloom and the country will flourish.

Let me give an example. Thiru. Thangasamy of Senthangudi, Pudukkottai District, hailed from a traditional family of farmers, dissatisfied with modern agricultural practices, he raised a forest on 10 acres of his land. Whenever somebody came to his house and whenever he went to somebody's house, he would plant a tree. He would plant a tree when there was a function in his house. Because of this, one can feel a coolness in the air as one enters Senthangudi Village. Greenery pervades the entire Village. The tree saplings he distributed now grow all over the District. On the marriage day of his son alone, he donated 10,000 tree saplings. Students from the USA, Japan, Germany, Israel and other corners of the world met him and received his advice on forest tending. If all of us try to follow his example, our country will turn into a garden.

In times like ours now, when efforts are undertaken to protect rivers and forests, I am duty-bound to say that it is a matter of pride that Sadguruji has started a movement – Cauvery Calling – with the lofty idea of protecting the Cauvery river. He started his journey at Thalai Kaveri and has now reached Chennai, creating awareness among people en route.

I understand that 69,000 farmers have so far been trained in agri-forests. I also learn that this movement will be taken to the people in a big way in stages in the next 12 years. They have planned to plant 242 crore tree saplings through this movement. This is to be welcomed. I wish to proudly say that Sadguruji is the one person who is planting the maximum number of tree saplings in India.

I request all the people of Tamil Nadu, particularly the youth and women to continue to participate in a big way in the mission of tree planting and co-operate in all the efforts of Hon'ble Amma's Government to make Tamil Nadu as the premier State. Our Government will support all the efforts taken by Sadguruji.

When 242 crore trees are planted, Nature will surely turn bounteous. When that happens, we will have good air and a healthy life. There will be good rains. If we are to obtain all this, we should plant 242 crore trees and work for the realization of Sadguruji's dream…With these words, I take leave of you, expressing thanks for this opportunity given to me.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Tenements, buildings costing Rs. 69.49 crore opened for Police, Fire Service Personnel

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 19.09.2019, declared open 288 flats for policemen, built at a cost of Rs. 37.94 crore on Papanasam Sivam Road in Mylapore, Chennai on behalf of the Home, Prohibition and Excise Department through video conferencing.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occasion also inaugurated 162 tenements for Policemen, 3 Police Stations, 2 buildings for Police Department, 2 Fire and Rescue Service Stations, and 13 tenements for Fire and Rescue Service personnel, all costing Rs. 31.55 crore.

The Police Department is carrying out important tasks of ensuring peace in the State, maintaining law and order, preventing occurrence of crimes and bringing criminals to book and getting them punishment. For betterment of the Department's activities, the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has been implementing various schemes, which include opening new Police Stations and tenements for police forces, improving infrastructure of the buildings of the Police Department and purchase of new vehicles for patrolling.

In this connection, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open 288 flats for Policemen, built at a cost of Rs. 37.94 crore on Papanasam Sivam Road in Mylapore, Chennai.

In addition, 16 tenements for Policemen built at a cost of Rs.1.94 crore at Chindadripet in Chennai, 28 tenements, constructed at a cost of Rs.3.89 crore at Royapuram and 118 flats, costing Rs.11.8 crore for the Tamil Nadu Police Special Battalion 9, in Manimutharu, Tirunelveli District;

Three Police Stations, one each at Kannagi Nagar, Chennai, Mangadu and Kaanathur

in Kancheepuram District, built at a cost of Rs.3.19 crore.

A Seminar Hall, constructed at a cost of Rs.5.68 crore at Police Training College at Ashok Nagar in Chennai and an Arms Godown at Sivakasi Armed Police Complex, built at a cost of Rs. 2.27 crore at Sivakasi in Virudhunagar District;

2 Fire and Rescue Stations one each at Tiruttani in Tiruvallur District and Arakkonam in Vellore District built at an estimate of Rs. 1.79 crore and 13 tenements for Fire Service and Rescue Personnel, constructed at a cost of Rs.1.73 crore at Alangayam in Vellore District.

Totally buildings, constructed for the Police Department and Fire Service and Rescue Forces Department at a cost of Rs.69.50 crore were declared open by Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also handed over appointment orders to 8 District Fire Service Officers for the Fire Service and Rescue Department, selected through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (Group-I Service).

Police and Fire Service Personnel belonging to 77 Nations participated in the World Police and Fire Service Department Games - 2019, held between 08.08.2019 and 18.08.2019 at Chengdu in China. In the international sports event, the Tamil Nadu Police Department participated and won 9 gold medals, 16 silver medals and 7 bronze medals. Inspector B.Fransis Mary, Special Sub-Inspector Thiru. V.Krishnamoorthy, Head Constable Thiru. K.Balu, First Grade Constables Tmt. Tamilarasi, Tmt. M.S.Krishna Rekha, and Thiru. Athistam, Policemen Selvi Pramila, Tmt. Uma Maheswari, and Thiru. M.Thanga Vasanth showed the medals to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, who congratulated the winners for their performance.

Hon'ble Chief Minister declares open 14 godowns costing Rs.12.76 crore

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 19.09.2019, declared open two godowns, each of 1,000 metric tonne capacity, together costing Rs.2.65 crore, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation through video conferencing at Pachur Village in Natrampalli Division in Vellore District. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated 12 new godowns, constructed at a cost of Rs.10.11 crore at Cuddalore, Madurai and Tirunelveli.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, under Rule 110, that more godowns would be constructed by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation in the State, with a view to increase the storage capacity of the Corporation as storage and sales are the two important aspects of food security.

As per the announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open 2 godowns of 1,000 metric tonne capacity each, built at a cost of Rs.2.65 crore at Pachur Village in Natrampalli Division in Vellore District through video conferencing at the Secretariat.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occasion also inaugurated 2 godowns of 1,000 metric tonne capacity each, at Kottaram Village in Thittakudi Division in Cuddalore District, built at a cost of Rs.2.65 crore;

Two godowns of 1,000 metric tonne capacity each at Edayapatti Village in Madurai East Division in Madurai District, built at a cost of Rs.2.69 crore;

And in Muthur Village in Palayamkottai Division in Tirunelveli District, 8 godowns of 10,000 metric tonne total capacity, constructed at a cost of Rs.4.77 crore.

Totally 14 godowns costing Rs.12.76 crore were opened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Under the computerization of Public Distribution System in the State, old paper ration cards are replaced by Smart Cards and the distribution of Smart Cards was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami on 01.04.2017.

Gradually all the paper ration cards have been replaced by Smart Cards and distributed to old paper ration card holders at no cost. New Smart Cards are also given to those who apply for new cards at no cost. All the Smart Cards were being printed centrally at Chennai and then sent to the Districts for distribution to the beneficiaries.

Any changes in the cards, including change in name, deletion and addition of names, change in address and change in photographs were being done after receiving applications online through the portal www.tnpds.gov.in and sent to the Department Officials concerned for necessary verification.

To avoid delay in printing the new Smart Cards and making any alterations in the cards at the Central level, it has been decided to print the new Smart Cards at the District level itself.

Through this new procedure, new Smart Ration cards are printed in the local Districts and are distributed at no cost to the beneficiaries. If any changes in the existing Smart Cards are to be done, the ration cardholders in question have to pay a nominal fee of Rs.20 at the District Distribution Offices and at Assistant Commissioner's Office in Chennai for the alterations.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, under the diversified distribution of Smart Cards System, distributed 5 Smart Cards, with alterations carried out in the Cards at the District level to the beneficiaries, at the Secretariat in Chennai on 19.09.2019.

128th birth anniversary of former Mayor N. Sivaraj

Hon'ble Ministers Thiruvalargal D. Jayakumar (Fisheries, Personnel & Administrative Reforms) and P. Benjamin (Rural Industries), Department of Tamil Development and Information Secretary, Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., and Department of Information and Public Relations Director Dr. P. Sankar I.A.S., paid floral tributes to a portrait of former Mayor N. Sivaraj kept near his statue at Mint, Chennai, on his 128th birth anniversary on 02.10.2019.

Hon'ble Chief Minister chairs meeting to speed up infrastructure projects

A review meeting of the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board was held at the Secretariat on 18.09.2019, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami.

At the meeting the Hon'ble Chief Minister discussed with representatives of the Board about the infrastructure available in foreign countries which he saw during his recent tour and stressed the need for having such infrastructure in Tamil Nadu. The Hon'ble Chief Minister advised the representatives to attract more investments to infrastructure projects to generate more employment in Tamil Nadu.

Following this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister discussed the action plan for various ongoing infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu including Fin Tech City, Integrated Tourism Development Programme, Integrated Vehicle Parking Development Programme in Chennai, attracting more investments on lands belonging to various Government organizations such as Southern Structurals, modernization of Tamil Nadu Transport Corporation Bus Depots, Chennai Light Rail Scheme, Outer Ring road - Industries Development Progamme, setting up Oceanarium Programme, setting up Knowledge-based Museum through Virtual Reality in Knowledge city, setting up an entertainment theatre using Virtual Reality in M.G.R. Film City, Medi Park Scheme, Chennai-Kanniyakumari Industrial Corridor Scheme, Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor Scheme with Ponneri as centre, *Nadandhaai Vaazhi Cauvery* Scheme, Recycling of Sewerage Water Schemes in Coimbatore, Erode, Salem, Tiruchirapalli and Tiruppur Corporations, Integrated Development Programme to retrieve waterways in Chennai city, Recycling of Sewerage Water in Chennai Corporation, Setting up Desalination of sea water at Mullakkadu in Thoothukudi District, Desalination of Sea Water for Drinking Water Scheme in Kudhiraimozhi Village in Ramanathapuram District and Desalination of Sea Water for Drinking water for parts of Villupuram and Tindivanam.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister directed the officials concerned to take the necessary steps for speedy implementation of the schemes. Implementing the schemes will attract more investments and thereby create more employment opportunities.

For preparing project reports for the above infrastructure schemes, Rs.289.82 crore has been allotted to the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, other Hon'ble Ministers, the Chief Secretary and other Senior I.A.S., Officers and High Government Officials participated in the meeting.

Tamil Nadu unveils e-vehicle policy: massive green push for more jobs

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 16.09.2019, released the Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy 2019, with the Hon'ble Minister for Industries Thiru. M.C.Sampath and the Hon'ble Minister for Transport Thiru. M.R.Vijayabhaskar receiving the first copies of the policy.

The Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy 2019, has been prepared by the Tamil Nadu Government to create a conducive atmosphere for the manufacture of electric vehicles in Tamil Nadu, with a view to protecting the environment and preventing air pollution in the State.

According to the policy, 100 per cent exemption from Motor Vehicles Tax will be given to all electric two wheelers, jeeps, three wheelers, buses and light motor vehicles (LMVs). This exemption will be given till 2022 end.

Those who manufacture electric vehicles and their spare parts, batteries and charging units will get special privileges. Those who invest Rs.50 crore and more in units that provide direct employment to at least 50 persons will get the following concessions.

- ✶ 100 per cent of the SGST paid on the sale of electric vehicles, manufactured sold and registered for use in the State, will be reimbursed to the manufacturing companies. This concession is available till 2030 end.
- ✶ A 15 per cent subsidy on investments on electric vehicle units and 20 per cent subsidy on battery manufacturing units will be given till the end of 2025.
- ✶ Units that invest in Government Industrial Estates for manufacturing electric vehicles, charging equipment and batteries will get 20 per cent subsidy in land value. Those who invest in Industrial Estates in the Southern Districts for manufacturing the above products will get 50 per cent subsidy in land value. This subsidy concession will be available till end of the year 2011.
- ✶ 100 per cent exemption from Stamp Duty for Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles and

Charging equipment will be given for those who obtain land by sale or lease.

- 100 per cent exemption from Electricity Tax will be given for units that manufacture Electric Vehicles and Charging equipment.
- To ensure the creation of many jobs, manufacturers of Electric Vehicles and their charging equipment will be provided an employment incentive in the form of reimbursement of Employer's contribution to the EPFs for all new jobs created till 31.12.2025.
- An additional Capital subsidy of 20 per cent will be offered over and above the eligibility limit for Capital Subsidy under the existing Capital Subsidy Scheme to Micro, Small and Medium Scale Units that manufacture e-vehicles and charging equipment.
- The Government will develop exclusive EV Parks in major Auto Manufacturing Hubs and also in areas where there is potential to attract Electric Vehicle investments.

In towns and other places, necessary policy support will be given to set up charging points to enable charging of electric vehicles. The Tamil Nadu Electricity Manufacturing and Distribution Corporation will set up charging facilities on its own or through public private partnership wherever necessary. The Corporation will ensure charging points in hotels, commercial complexes and cinema theatres.

To enable Government Transport Corporations purchase e-vehicles, the necessary financial support will be given. Open permit system will be implemented for three-wheeler electric vehicles.

An Amendment to building and construction laws will be made to ensure that charging infrastructure is integrated at the planning stage itself for all new constructions and apartments in cities.

The Government of Tamil Nadu will encourage start-ups in the e-vehicle sector and will offer incubation services to them in the form of office space, common facilities and mentoring support.

Hon'ble Chief Minister greets Hon'ble Prime Minister on latter's birthday

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, on the occasion of the birthday of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, sent a greetings letter with a bouquet to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

The contents of the letter are as follows: "Please accept my heartiest greetings and best wishes on the joyous occasion of your birthday. May Almighty God bless you with good health and strength to serve our nation and people".

News in Pictures

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** at the Secretariat on 26.08.2019, flagged off 7 Amma Patrol vehicles as a token of the introduction of 40 Amma Patrol vehicles, costing Rs.7.50 crore, for the Chennai Metropolitan Police.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu T**hiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** at the Secretariat on 26.08.2019, flagged off on behalf of the Agriculture Department, 5 vehicles fitted with units to process tomatoes and manufacture value-added products. Costing Rs.2 crore, the vehicles have been introduced for the benefit of farmers.

NEWS IN PICTURES

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** at the Secretariat on 27.08.2019, on behalf of the School Education Department and with NABARD assistance, declared open through video conferencing, 20 additional classrooms and a laboratory building for the Government Girls Higher Secondary School on the East Main Street in East Thanjavur, built at a cost of Rs.57,000. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated on the occasion, 41 school buildings built at a cost of Rs. 69.45 crore.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the Secretariat on 26.08.2019, laid the foundation stone through video conferencing for the Southern District Textile Processing Cluster (P) Limited and a new Industrial Park, to be set up on a 102 acre site between Thamaraikulam and Pottalkulam Villages in Kariapatti Taluk in Virudhunagar District.

NEWS IN PICTURES

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** declared open at the Secretariat on 14.08.2019, commercial tax and the Sub-registrar office buildings, constructed respectively at Tirukovilur in Villupuram District and at Keezhpennathur in Tiruvannamalai District, each at a cost of Rs.90 lakh (total Rs.1.80 crore). The Hon’ble Chief Minister also inaugurated the extended service of the software STAR 2.0 (Simplified and Transparent Administration of Registration) to digitally transfer forms for name change in pattas after registration of documents in urban areas.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** at the Secretariat on 26.08.2019, flagged off an Electric Bus, the first of its kind in the history of the Tamil Nadu Transport Corporation, for public use.

Good governance brings award for fifth year

Tamil Nadu wins Krishi Karman for record oilseeds production

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami was shown the letter informing that the State has won the Krishi Karman Award in Oilseeds Production for the year 2017-2018, by Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Thiru. R.Doraikannu and the Agriculture Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary for Agriculture, Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi I.A.S., at the Secretariat on 19.09.2019. This is the fifth time Tamil Nadu has won the 'Krishi Karman' award. The Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated the Hon'ble Minister and the Principle Secretary for the achievement.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has been successfully implementing various schemes to increase agriculture production and productivity leading to an increase in the income of farmers. Thanks to the Second Green Revolution initiated by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the year 2011-2012, the Agricultural Department created a record by doubling food grain production. New techniques adopted by the Agriculture Department in cultivation practices led to a reduction in the gap in Agriculture production and during the years 2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, the State achieved a

record production by producing more than 100 lakh metric tonnes.

The Central Government has given the 'Krishi Karman' Award to Tamil Nadu Government 4 times for achieving a record production in food grain due to various innovative measures taken by the Government. The Awards have been given to Tamil Nadu for achieving 101.52 lakh metric tonnes of food grain production in the year 2011-2012, for 6.14 lakh metric tonnes of pulses production in 2013-2014, for achieving 40.79 lakh metric tonnes of small grains production in 2014-2015, and again in food grain production in 2015-2016.

Despite the severe drought that prevailed in the State during 2016-2017, due to concerted efforts made by the Government, the State once again achieved a record food grains production of 107.133 lakh metric tonnes during 2017-2018. In oilseeds, the State harvested 10.382 lakh metric tonnes and achieved 2,729 kg productivity per hectare. This is twice the all-India average productivity of 1,284 kg per hectare, which means it is higher by 113 per cent than the overall count. For this record production, the State has been selected for the Krishi Karman Award for the Year 2017-2018. With this year's award, the good governance provided by the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has notched the record of winning the Krishi Karman Award for Agriculture for the fifth year.

Birth anniversary of Ramasamy Padyatchiyar

Hon'ble Ministers, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Textbook and Education Services Corporation, Director of Information and Public Relations and high Government Officials paid floral tributes to a portrait of freedom fighter and champion of social justice Ramasamy Padyatchiyar, kept near his statue at Halda Junction, Guindy, Chennai, on his birth anniversary on 16.09.2019.

Office building of MSME Bureau opened, work begins to attract more investments

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 19.09.2019, declared open the office building of the MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau, located at the SIDCO complex at the Thiru.Vi.Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai and inaugurated its functioning through video conferencing.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami announced in the Legislative Assembly on 13.06.2018 under Rule 110 that a MSM Enterprises Bureau would be set up in Tamil Nadu to provide globalized platform for the Micro, Small and Medium units in the State and bring new investment proposals for them.

Following the statement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open the office building of the Bureau at the SIDCO Complex in Thiru.Vi.Ka Industrial Estate in Guindy and also its functioning. The Bureau's main aim will be to globalize the MSME units in the State, to get the assistance of global business and to attract fresh investments.

The Bureau will act as an intermediary agency to sanction license for Micro, Small and Medium units at the shortest possible time and to implement single window scheme. In addition, it will promote investments at the national and global level and act as an integrating agency for entering into agreements with trade bodies, industrial units, investment policy promoters and organizations. ■